

SCOMM

147:16

From: Louie Flora

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 2:36 PM

To: lhsclaf+housefisheries@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: Ian Fisk; Ben Mulligan

Subject: FW: Answers to questions from 1-16-08 House Fisheries Committee hearing

Please find the attached reports from ADF&G staff in response to questions asked by members of House Fisheries Committee, as well as by Representative Thomas (see questions below).

Louie

questions for Comm Fish:

1. Break data out on the value of state water vs. non-state water species. - Rep. Seaton
2. Provide a species valuation chart in 2007 dollars. - Rep. Johnson
3. Break data out between state and federal water P-Cod ex-vessel valuation - Rep. Seaton
4. Provide an update on management efforts and efforts to establish a commercial fishery for sharks. - Rep. Seaton
5. Discuss the ADF&G position/efforts on predator control for sharks - Rep. Johansen and Rep. Thomas
6. Has a test fishery been conducted on sharks
7. Rep. Johansen and Rep. Johnson had questions relative to the Southeast Herring, not sure if these were answered fully in committee or not. Rep. Johnson wanted to know how far back stock assessments on SE herring have been conducted. Rep. Johansen asked if a database exists to document stocks of SE herring.
8. Is there a white paper on the state's position regarding the ESA listing of the Lynn Canal herring. If so, please include it in the answers.
9. Provide a list of positions in ADF&G Comm Fish where pay is insufficient - Rep. Johnson
10. Has ADF&G discussed, or does the Department have a position on seeking exempt status for Biologist III and other high level positions. - Rep. Johnson
11. Please examine the budget data concerning the federal grant reductions and discuss which management regime is a "drag" on the funding. For instance, does state management of Bering Sea Crab take up a large amount of funding proportionate to the other areas listed in the Comm Fish power point slide entitled "Federal Grant Reductions". Can some of these management areas be turned over to the feds? - Rep. Seaton
12. Please provide data on Sea Urchin stocks, valuation and harvest levels for the past 5 years. Provide information on the foregone value incurred by the available stocks not being harvested. (I added the 5 year time frame. If this is a lot more work than just 2006 and 2007 numbers let me know) - Rep. Johansen.

questions for Sport Fish:

1. Provide figures and a discussion on salt water vs. fresh water sport fishing effort both statewide and broken down by region. Discuss Sport Fish Division management and administration for both salt and fresh water sport fisheries and break out the costs to the Department for this management and administration. - Rep. Seaton
2. Provide a list of Youth Only sport fisheries statewide and regionally. - Rep. Johnson
3. Discuss Chitna Access issues and plans by the Department and the Division to increase access. - Rep. Johnson
4. Explain the efforts put forth (education, funding etc.) by the Department and the Sport Fish Division to reduce the amount of offal (heads and guts) left on the banks of popular sport fishing rivers (and lakes if applicable). - Rep. Seaton
5. Discuss generally the interplay between divisions in managing personal use and commercial fisheries on the same river and in the same lake. (question may be appropriate for Comm Fish, Sport Fish and Subsistence) Specifically discuss Macdonald lake in Southeast. - Rep. Johansen
6. Discuss the ideas put forth by the Department and Sport Fish Division for controlling both the amount of "catch and release" Cohos on the Copper river, and the mortality levels for the fish that are released. Provide a discussion of proposals to the Board on this issue, and why they were rejected or accepted. - Rep. Thomas
7. Discuss the growth of the sport fishing industry and how this effects the economics in the state and regionally. Discuss the G.F. contribution of sport fishing/sport fishing tourism in AK.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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February 6, 2008

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
Mailstop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton:

This letter provides answers to the questions asked of Commercial Fisheries Division during the recent House Fisheries Committee Overview of Commercial Fisheries for Non-salmon species, which was held January 16, 2008.

Similar questions were grouped into topics and answered as a group as follows:

1. State waters versus federal waters fisheries – Page 2
2. Ex-vessel value of commercial fisheries – Page 4
3. Developing fisheries for sharks and skates – Page 5
4. Southeast Alaska herring – Page 11
5. Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery – Page 14
6. Recruitment and retention – Page 16
7. Federal fund reductions – Page 18
8. MacDonald Lake sockeye salmon management – Page 20

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Hilsinger
Director, Commercial Fisheries

1. STATE WATERS VERSUS FEDERAL WATERS FISHERIES

Questions:

- Break data out on the value of state water vs. non-state water species. - Rep. Seaton
- Break data out between state and federal water P-Cod ex-vessel valuation - Rep. Seaton

Below are two tables. Table 1 provides harvest and exvessel value of all groundfish for both state waters and federal waters for 2005 through 2007. Table 2 provides the same information for Pacific cod only.

Table 1. State vs. federal waters groundfish harvest and exvessel value, 2005-2007.

2005 State and Federal Managed Groundfish Harvest & Exvessel Value

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	37,664,788	Lbs	4,766,416,200
Value	\$20,714,010	Value	\$629,076,533

2006 State and Federal Managed Groundfish Harvest & Exvessel Value

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	42,142,700	Lbs	4,775,317,785
Value	\$21,380,267	Value	\$737,822,415

2007 State and Federal Managed Groundfish Harvest & Exvessel Value ^a

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	43,971,747	Lbs	4,760,193,690
Value	\$24,246,744	Value	\$801,196,008

^a 2007 data is preliminary.

Table 2. State vs. federal waters Pacific cod harvest and exvessel value, 2005-2007.

2005 State and Federal Managed Pacific Cod Harvest & Exvessel Value

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	28,902,176	Lbs	528,871,455
Value	\$8,216,519	Value	\$132,217,864

2006 State and Federal Managed Pacific Cod Harvest & Exvessel Value

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	32,809,643	Lbs	498,323,385
Value	\$11,033,401	Value	\$124,580,846

2007 State and Federal Managed Pacific Cod Harvest & Exvessel Value ^a

State Waters		Federal Waters	
Lbs	37,383,751	Lbs	460,187,910
Value	\$16,033,070	Value	\$179,473,285

^a 2007 data is preliminary.

2. EX-VESSEL VALUE OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Question:

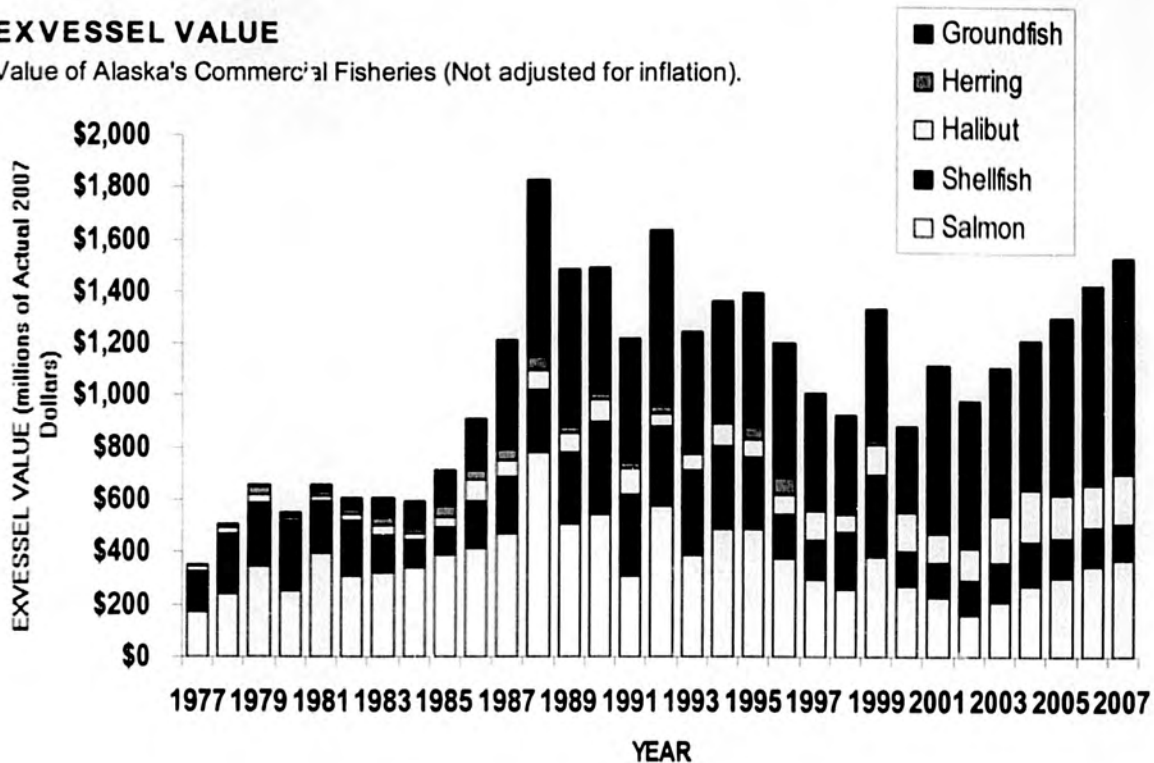
➤ Provide a species valuation chart in 2007 dollars. - Rep. Johnson

The graph below provides exvessel value from 1977 through 2007 in actual dollars, not adjusted for inflation. That is, the 1977 value is in 1977 dollars and the 2007 value is in 2007 dollars.

Figure 1. Ex-vessel value of Alaska's commercial fisheries, not adjusted for inflation.

EXVESSEL VALUE

Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries (Not adjusted for inflation).



3. DEVELOPING FISHERIES FOR SHARKS AND SKATES

Questions:

- *Provide an update on management efforts and efforts to establish a commercial fishery for sharks. - Rep. Seaton*
- *Provide an update on management efforts and efforts to establish a commercial fishery for sharks and skates (are harvests incidental, by catch, directed, have there been any efforts to increase harvests or establish directed fisheries. - Rep. Seaton*
- *Discuss the ADF&G position/efforts on predator control for sharks - Rep. Johansen and Rep. Thomas*
- *Has a test fishery been conducted on sharks? -Rep. Thomas*

Background Information:

One of the most common sharks in Alaska, and generally the primary species of interest for fisheries, is the spiny dogfish. This is a long-lived species and animals are slow to mature and have low reproductive potential. Spiny dogfish live about 60+ yrs, mature at about 25 yrs, and have a long gestation period of 24 months. These factors make this species particularly vulnerable to over harvest, which would result in slow rebuilding of stocks. For these reasons, it is particularly difficult to manage this species in a way that allows harvest, but prevents depletion.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has taken a conservative approach to developing fisheries for sharks in Alaska. In 1998, the Board adopted statewide regulations closing directed commercial shark fishing citing concerns for the potential for rapid development of a shark fishery, the lack of biological information on sharks in Alaska, and the undocumented mortality of sharks in other commercial fisheries. The Board also recommended full reporting of sharks incidentally caught in other fisheries. At the same meeting, the Board adopted a statewide annual limit of two-sharks in the sport fishery (5 AAC 75.012) and recognized the above concerns in the text of the regulation. In 2000, the Board increased the allowable bycatch retention of spiny dogfish to 35% (5 AAC 28.174) by longline and troll vessels operating in the state's Eastern Gulf of Alaska Registration Area and allowed full retention of spiny dogfish bycatch in the Yakutat and Icy Bay salmon set gillnet fisheries. Despite liberalization of the bycatch limits, no viable shark fisheries or markets have yet emerged. Longline is a practical gear type for targeting spiny dogfish and bycatch in the varied habitats of coastal Alaska would likely include halibut, sablefish, rockfish and lingcod.

Similarly, skates are managed conservatively because of a lack of information on stock status and basic biology, degree of bycatch in other fisheries, and high potential of over harvest. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) has placed skates of the genus *Raja* on bycatch only status.

Shark and Skate Fisheries Management by Region:

SE Region:

Currently, there is no directed fishery for sharks or skates in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (Eastern Gulf). They may be retained as bycatch only, or with a Commissioner's permit.

There are three species of sharks that are caught (as bycatch), especially in the longline fisheries, but also in troll and gillnet fisheries: spiny dogfish, sleeper shark, and salmon shark. There is incidental catch of skates, but it is relatively low. There have been several attempts to initiate a directed fishery for spiny dogfish in the Eastern Gulf. The last attempt was at the 2003 Board of Fisheries regulatory meeting where a proposal for a large scale directed fishery in the Yakutat area was rejected. The Board has also rejected other proposals for directed spiny dogfish fisheries.

A proposal was submitted at the 2003 SE Alaska Groundfish Board of Fisheries meeting to remove spiny dogfish from the sport fish shark harvest limits of one shark per day and two per year. Part of the rationale was for predatory control measures to eliminate a nuisance species. The Board rejected the proposal. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) opposed the proposal stating that this was not likely to solve any nuisance problems. The Department does not conduct any stock assessment for spiny dogfish, or other sharks or skates, and has no way to quantify the effect that harvesting large numbers of them would have on the stock or on other species. There has been no effort on the Department's part to initiate or support harvest with a goal of predator control in SE Alaska. One concern is that directed long line fisheries for spiny dogfish would increase bycatch of demersal shelf rockfish (DSR), which could result in either closure of directed DSR fisheries, or exceeding Total Allowable Catches.

There has been no test fishery in SE Alaska or the Eastern Gulf for sharks or skates.

Central Region (PWS and Cook Inlet):

In 2005, the Board adopted a proposal for a directed commercial spiny dogfish fishery in Cook Inlet via Commissioner's permit. A single permit request was received in 2006 and no others have been received to date. Spiny dogfish were caught and sold to a buyer. However, that buyer found no market for them. Other buyers have also tried to find spiny dogfish markets in South Central Alaska without success. The animals must be bled and the meat washed thoroughly. On the East Coast, spiny dogfish are often not gutted, but are flash frozen and shipped directly to Europe. In 2005, the Board rejected a proposal to open a directed spiny dogfish fishery. Part of the rationale was concern for the expected bycatch of more valuable species such as halibut, rockfish, and sablefish.

The Department has not supported a predator control program on any species of shark. The Department attempts to manage fisheries for a sustainable harvest opportunity. Given the lack of stock assessment data on spiny dogfish and the low reproductive rate, it would be difficult to manage such a program. Likewise, little information exists for sleeper sharks and salmon sharks and in some areas, such as Prince William Sound, there are already directed sport fisheries for salmon sharks. Also, a convincing case has not been made regarding negative effects of spiny dogfish on other species.

Both PWS and Cook Inlet have had skate harvests but there was no sustained interest. In Cook Inlet, one skate fishermen obtained a permit and then dumped his load when he couldn't find a market. Recently the NPFMC has placed the *Raja* species (longnose and big skates), the most common target in skate fisheries, on bycatch-only status. In 2007, the NPFMC's Gulf of Alaska Plan Team recommended no directed fishing for skates in the Gulf of Alaska for 2008 and 2009. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trawl surveys showed a decrease in total skate biomass in the Gulf of Alaska between 2005 and 2007, as well as a high incidental catch in groundfish and halibut fisheries and a lack of accurate information regarding the composition of the skate catch. In addition, NMFS recommended that information on *Bathyraja* species should be closely monitored to ensure that target fisheries do not expand to these poorly understood species before basic life history information can be collected to ensure effective management. The state has adopted a similar approach for state waters. In Central Region, there have been very few recent requests for Commissioner's permits for skate and the individuals requesting them have not had developed markets.

Westward Region:

By regulation of the Board of Fisheries 5 AAC 28.084 Fishing Seasons, Landing Requirements, and Utilization of Sharks there is no directed fishing allowed (no open season) for sharks in state waters. The Board of Fisheries likely adopted this regulation because sharks are easily overfished. In state waters sharks may be only taken as bycatch, up to 20% of the directed fishery landed weight.

In federal waters, sharks are part of the other species category and directed fishing is allowed, although NMFS would likely only allow a conservative harvest level of sharks to be taken within the other species Total Allowable Catch category.

There have only been minor amounts of landed shark bycatch; most of the landed bycatch is ground up as fishmeal. The vast majority of shark bycatch is discarded at sea.

Table 3. Westward Region state-waters landed shark harvest for food or fishmeal, pounds

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Kodiak	1,826	7,916	28,096	27,799	6,040
Chignik	0	0	290	0	12,941
Alaska Peninsula	54	170	376	0	16,783
Bering Sea/Aleutian Is.	104	57	102	160	10,099

ADF&G has assisted UAF graduate students by taking dorsal spines of spiny dogfish for age determination. ADF&G also routinely catches spiny dogfish in the summer crab-trawl survey and has shark abundance information (kilograms/kilometer towed) from the summer crab-trawl survey.

There are no area specific regulations for harvesting skates in the Westward Region. The general provision regulation, 5 AAC 28.083 Permit Requirements for Skates and Rays authorizes a Commissioner's permit to harvest skates. The Commissioner's permit may specify fishing depth, dates, areas, size limits, gear, and logbooks.

The skate fishery in state-waters of the Westward Region has been conducted as a parallel fishery. However, the majority of historical skate harvest has occurred in federal waters. ADF&G personnel rely on the NMFS stock assessment and harvest level because the state does not assess skate abundance, although the state does collect relative skate abundance information (kilograms/kilometer towed) and size-sex information during the summer crab-trawl survey. The parallel fishery is regulated by annual issuance of the global emergency order and specifies that parallel seasons will match adjacent federal waters for gear, closed waters, and bycatch levels.

In February 2006, NMFS placed skates on bycatch only status, and disallowed directed fishing because of concerns of over fishing. Part of the rationale for closing the directed fishery was because of their inclusion in the other species category, and little information on basic skate biology and population size. Therefore, the parallel skate fishery has been bycatch only since February 2006. NMFS has removed skates from the other species category, and established separate skate TACs. If skate bycatch reaches the TAC, NMFS would place skate on prohibited species status.

Skate bycatch is allowed at 20% by weight of the target species onboard. Typically bycatch is landed in longline and trawl fisheries, although some skate bycatch is discarded at sea. In some years the skate discard at sea is substantial in relation to the landed harvest.

Prior to February 2006, when vessels could target skates, the fishery was open when the NMFS other species category was open. Fisherman targeting skates in the parallel fishery were issued a Commissioner's permit and logbook to allow ADF&G to gain additional information on skate species harvested, location, and other bycatch from state waters. The market for skates has varied and interest in Commissioner's permits for skates has varied annually with market conditions. There was a strong market in 2003 and a high harvest in Kodiak that year.

Table 4. Westward region state-waters landed skate harvest, pounds

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Kodiak	1,166,087	188,403	196,760	380,610	283,192
Chignik	7,396	410	875	378	133
Alaska. Peninsula	9,281	126	133	194	2,319
Bering Sea/Aleutian Is.	1,238	36,249	5,312	20,356	30,366

Shark and Skate Research:

Development of sustainable fisheries for sharks and skates in Alaska is dependent on gaining better information on stock status and life history. There are no dedicated general funds for skate or shark research in the Westward Region. The region annually receives a small grant from NMFS to collect general groundfish information on the ADF&G crab survey.

Following is summary of the recent research work done on the various species.

Salmon sharks: An age, growth and maturity study was conducted by Dr. Ken Goldman of ADF&G (Goldman and Musick 2006). There is also a paper on salmon shark demography, which is based on Dr. Goldman's Ph.D. dissertation (Goldman 2002). This paper will soon be submitted for publication. Dr. Goldman has also published a paper on endothermy in salmon sharks (Goldman et al. 2004), and he has been an author (or co-author) of NPFMC assessments on sharks in the Gulf of Alaska since 2001. Dr. Goldman continues to update his models on age, growth and maturity in this species.

References:

Goldman, K.J. 2002. Aspects of age, growth, demographics and thermal biology of two Lamniform shark species. Ph.D. dissertation. College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. 220 pp.

Goldman, K.J. and J.A. Musick. 2006. Growth and maturity of salmon sharks in the eastern and western North Pacific, and comments on back-calculation methods. *Fish. Bull.* 104:278-292.

Goldman, K.J., S.D. Anderson, R.J. Latour and J.A. Musick. 2004. Homeothermy in adult salmon sharks, *Lamna ditropis*. *Env. Biol. Fish.* 71:403-411.

Examples of NPFMC plan team assessments:

Courtney, D.L., C. Tribuzio and K.J. Goldman. 2006. BSAI Sharks. pp. 1083-1132. *In*: Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

Courtney, D.L., C. Tribuzio, K.J. Goldman and J. Rice. 2006. GOA Sharks. Appendix E, pp. 481-562. *In*: Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the Gulf of Alaska. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

Goldman, K.J. 2001. Sharks and shark bycatch in Alaska State and Federal Waters. *In*: Ecosystems Considerations for 2002. Pat Livingston, ed. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Spiny dogfish: Cindy Tribuzio is currently completing her Ph.D. under Dr. Gordon Kruse at UAF in Juneau. She examined the reproductive biology of spiny dogfish for her masters' degree at University of Washington (Tribuzio 2004) and has continued her work on spiny dogfish for her Ph.D. continuing to examine reproductive biology (Tribuzio et al. in press), but also studying the age and growth, embryonic growth as well as running demographic models and examining the feeding ecology of this species. She expects five publications from her dissertation work. Ms. Tribuzio has also been a co-author on NPFMC assessments on sharks in the Gulf of Alaska since 2004.

References:

Tribuzio, C.A. 2004. An investigation of the reproductive physiology of two North Pacific shark species: Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) and Salmon Shark (*Lamna ditropis*). Master's Thesis. 147pp. University of Washington

Tribuzio, C.A., V.F. Gallucci, G. Bargmann. Accepted manuscript. Reproductive biology of Puget Sound Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), including growth, embryonic growth, modeling parameters and morphometrics. First International Dogfish Symposium Proceedings, June 2005.

Pacific sleeper sharks: Very little is known about this shark species and little literature exists (eg., Hulbert et al 2006). Attempts continue to try and age these animals from hard-parts, but no success can be reported to date. There are NPFMC assessments on this species, but with no life history data for this species, the assessment process is limited. There are researchers attempting to garner funding to study sleeper sharks in Alaska, but to date, very little research has been conducted and very little data exist on this species.

References:

Hulbert, L.B., M.F. Sigler and C.R. Lunsford. 2006. Depth and movement behaviour of the Pacific sleeper shark in the north-east Pacific Ocean. *Journal of Fish Biology*. 69, 406-425.

Skates: Since 2005, the Westward Region crab and groundfish trawl survey has been assisting graduate students with Moss Landing Marine Laboratory's Pacific Shark Research Center (Moss Landing Marine Lab). In 2005, ADF&G employees agreed to collect biological data from skates in Shelikof Strait and provide that data to Moss Landing Marine Lab. Data collected included sex, total length, clasper length (males only), and vertebrae samples and spines (for age determination) from each skate species captured. Due to the amount of additional biological data requested, and the additional time it takes to collect that data, beginning in 2006 the state has been allowing students from Moss Landing Marine Lab to accompany ADF&G on survey (Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Peninsula) and use the R/V Resolution as a platform to collect data from multiple skate species, including big skate (*Raja binoculata*), longnose skate (*Raja rhina*), Bering skate (*Bathyraja interrupta*), Aleutian skate (*Bathyraja aleutica*), and Alaska skate (*Bathyraja parmifera*). Data that has been collected by the graduate student volunteers has

included length, width, and other measurements, reproductive condition and samples, stomach samples, vertebrae samples and spine, muscle and tissue samples. These data have and will be used by the graduate students for their various research projects that include diet and isotope analysis of the skate and its prey items, and age at maturity studies, to name a couple. Moss Landing Marine Lab maintains and analyzes this data independently. ADF&G has provided the platform for data collection and our catch composition data to Moss Landing Marine Lab to assist them in this important research on skates. Regular protocols on the trawl survey include identification to species, determination of sex, and a length measurement for each skate captured.

4. SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING

Questions:

- *Rep. Johansen and Rep. Johnson had questions relative to Southeast Herring, not sure if these were answered fully in committee or not. Rep. Johnson wanted to know how far back stock assessments on SE herring have been conducted. Rep. Johansen asked if a database exists to document stocks of SE herring.*
- *Is there a white paper on the state's position regarding the ESA listing of the Lynn Canal herring? If so, please include it in the answers. -Rep. Johnson.*

Commercial harvests and biomass data for SE Alaska herring are available since approximately 1970. This information is available in the recent 2007 herring management plans for SE Alaska available on the department's web site at:

Herring sac roe fishery:

http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/pdfs/herring/rir_1j07-03_herring_sac_roe_mp.pdf

Herring spawn on kelp fishery:

http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/pdfs/herring/rir_1j07-02_2007_southeast_alaska_herring_sok_mp.pdf

A copy of the state's comments on the proposed Lynn Canal Herring Endangered Species Act listing is attached. Historical commercial harvests and spawn levels for Lynn Canal are provided below in Table 5. presented on the following two pages.

Table 5.—Historic Lynn Canal commercial harvest and nautical miles of spawn, 1952 through 2006

Season	Total quota (tons)	Total Harvest (tons)	Pound catch (tons)	Seine catch (tons)	Gillnet catch (tons)	Date of first spawn	Major spawning dates	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawning biomass
1952-53								8.2	
1953-54								9.4	
1954-55								12.2	
1955-56								10.0	
1956-57								28.1	
1957-58								24.1	
1958-59								10.8	
1959-60		156	156			5/1	5/1-5/15	12.9	
1960-61		22	22						
1961-62		354	354						
1962-63		101	101						
1963-64		195	195						
1964-65		200	200						
1965-66		109	109						
1966-67		100	100						
1967-68		475	475						
1968-69		600	0	600					
1969-70	750	240	240				5/2-5/4	11.5	
1970-71	750	654	654						
1971-72	950	524	431	93		5/2	5/6-10	8.5	
1972-73	950	350	49	301			4/25	10.6	
1973-74	620	396	73	319	4		4/27	13.2	
1974-75	620	644	88	556	2		5/5	10.9	
1975-76	870	631	74	433	124		4/27	15.9	
1976-77	995	926	0	709	217		5/3	9.7	
1977-78	820	966	0	603	363		4/24	8.0	
1978-79	120	7	11	0			4/18	5.7	
1979-80	720	976	0	976			5/8	9.8	
1980-81	845	777	2	775			4/30	9.2	
1981-82	400	551	0	551			spotty	2.5	
1982-83							5/1	6.0	
1983-84							4/24	2.6	
1984-85							4/29	5.1	
1985-86							5/2	5.0	
1986-87							5/4	2.5	
1987-88							4/30-5/3	7.0	
1988-89							24-Apr	5.0	
1989-90							26-Apr	3.0	
1990-91							4/30-5/4	2.5	
1991-92							27-Apr	4.0	
1992-93							5/4-5/6	3.2	
1993-94							4/27-5/8	4.3	

-continued-

Table 5—continued (page 2 of 2)

Season	Total quota (tons)	Total Harvest (tons)	Pound catch (tons)	Seine catch (tons)	Gillnet catch (tons)	Date of first spawn	Major spawning dates	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawning biomass
1994-95							5/10-5/24	0.95	
1995-96						4/29	5/1	2.9	
1996-97						5/1	5/5	2.2	
1997-98						5/13		0.49	
1998-99								6.0	
1999-00						5/4	5/10-5/10	3.3	
2000-01						5/5	5/5-5/6	4.0	
2001-02						5/29	5/29	3.0	
2002-03						4/30	4/30 - 5/2	2.2	
2003-04						5/4	5/4 - 5/9	5.1	719
2004-05						5/10	5/11 - 5/12	1.4	318
2005-06						5/12	5/13 - 5/14	3.9	712

5. SOUTHEAST ALASKA SEA URCHIN FISHERY

Question:

- *Please provide data on Sea Urchin stocks, valuation and harvest levels for the past 5 years. Provide information on the foregone value incurred by the available stocks not being harvested. (I added the 5 year time frame. If this is a lot more work than just 2006 and 2007 numbers let me know) - Rep. Johansen.*

The following tables document sea urchin guideline harvest levels, harvests, effort, prices, roe percentage, and unharvested pounds and value from the 1997/98 season through the 2006/07 season.

Average ex-vessel value of the unharvested sea urchins has averaged \$1,112,061 over the past five years, assuming that price per pound paid for the urchins would have remained the same with the increased harvest.

The commercial red sea urchin fishery in Southeast Alaska has been steadily declining for the last five years. This decline is influenced solely by market conditions rather than missed fishing opportunity due to management styles by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). ADF&G works very closely with Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) and its urchin committee to come up with ways to better prosecute the fishery. Because of this working relationship, urchin regulations were severely relaxed, while still remaining biologically sustainable, during the 2006 Board of Fisheries regulatory meeting in Ketchikan to accommodate urchin fishers who were still trying to remain profitable in the fishery.

There are several key factors which have driven the urchin fishery into this situation of steady decline:

- We have gone from 12 processors in 1996 to one during the 2006-07 season.
- Due to the seasonal aspect of the fishery – most of the landings occur during the fall, winter and spring months – the processor(s) have a difficult time retaining a skilled workforce during this time, which in turn contributes to a lower quality product.
- Complete lack of access to major road systems requires sole reliance on Alaska Airlines to bring the product to market. This is expensive and not always reliable.
- We are on the northern edge of the red urchin's habitat and it is known that on average the quality of the Uni (roe) that comes out of southeast is generally a grade below Uni that comes out of California and Oregon.

On top of these issues, probably the single biggest factor in the declining market of southeast Alaska urchin roe, as well as British Columbia's declining urchin fishery, has been the enormous influx of cheap, illegal and unregulated urchin roe coming from the Kuril Islands, a Russian owned archipelago stretching from northern Japan to the southeast coast of Russia. Beginning in 2002 Russian fishers began flooding the market with cheap and illegal urchin roe which is being controlled by the Russian market forces.

Table 6. Red sea urchin commercial harvest 1997-98 through 2006-07, including pounds and value of unharvested roe

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
GHL (pounds)	4,255,364	4,641,300	5,567,300	6,806,700	5,689,300	5,309,900	5,095,100	5,518,300	5,753,100	5,599,500
Amount Harvested (pounds)	4,021,596	3,072,846	2,672,328	2,373,993	3,064,191	3,579,493	2,812,574	1,801,893	1,024,282	622,501
Roe Percent	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.7	5.1
Percent of GHL Unharvested	5.5%	34%	52%	65%	46%	33%	45%	67%	82%	89%
Pounds Unharvested	234,045	1,578,042	2,894,996	4,424,355	2,617,078	1,752,267	2,292,795	3,697,261	4,717,542	4,983,555
Average Price	\$0.42	\$0.40	\$0.37	\$0.34	\$0.30	\$0.32	\$0.33	\$0.32	\$0.30	\$0.33
Ex-vessel Value	\$1,605,729	\$1,212,628	\$1,012,374	\$807,157	\$942,269	\$1,133,706	\$895,369	\$576,605	\$307,284	\$205,425
Approximate Value of Unharvested Roe	\$98,298	\$631,217	\$1,071,149	\$1,504,281	\$785,123	\$560,725	\$756,622	\$1,183,124	\$1,415,263	\$1,644,573

6. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Questions:

- *Provide a list of positions in ADF&G Commercial Fisheries positions where pay is insufficient - Rep. Johnson*
- *Has ADF&G discussed, or does the Department have a position on seeking exempt status for Biologist III and other high level positions. - Rep. Johnson*

The following positions in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries have been found to be particularly difficult to recruit and retain.

Fishery Biologist II (Range 16)
Fishery Biologist III (Range 18)
Fishery Biologist IV (Range 20)
Biometrician II (Range 19)
Biometrician III (Range 20)
Fishery Geneticist II (Range 19)
Fishery Geneticist III (Range 21)
Fish Pathologist II (Range 19)
Fish Pathologist III (Range 21)
Fishery Scientist I (Range 22)
Fishery Scientist II (Range 24)
Analyst/Programmer III (Range 18)
Analyst/Programmer IV (Range 20)
Analyst/Programmer V (Range 22)
Fish and Game Regional Supervisor (Range 22)
Fish and Game Assistant Director (Range 22)
Fish and Game Deputy Director (Range 24)

There are a variety of reasons for the difficulty in hiring these positions. Fishery Biologist II candidates can be difficult to recruit because Fishery Biologist I positions are paid only 7.5% less, but earn overtime. Therefore, a Fishery Biologist I with overtime pay can earn substantially more, often in a short period of time, than a Fishery Biologist II. Positions at the Fishery Biologist III, IV, Regional Supervisor, Assistant Director, and Deputy Director levels are perceived as requiring too much extra work and responsibility for the extra pay. Also, some of these positions may require certain employees to move to other communities, which may act as a disincentive to promotion. Biometrician, Fishery Scientist, Fishery Geneticist, and Analyst/Programmer are highly technical positions which are extremely difficult to recruit for at the higher levels (II and above).

Currently all positions in the list above are classified positions. The Department is not in favor of making positions at the Fishery Biologist III level and above exempt for several reasons. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is recognized world wide for the excellence of its fisheries management. This is because of the highly professional nature of our workforce. Positions at the FB III and above levels are the back bone of the Department's Area and Regional fishery management and research programs. Changing such positions to exempt status would likely exacerbate recruitment and retention problems since personnel could be replaced at any time for

political reasons and might often change with the change of governor. Since Fish and Game Biologists were converted to 30-year retirement in 1983, it would extremely difficult for an area manager or researcher to survive administration changes long enough to ever reach retirement. This would not be conducive to attracting the most talented researchers and managers.

Management of fisheries to meet escapement goals or guideline harvest levels requires having a research and management staff that is extremely knowledgeable about the fisheries of a given area or region. Commercial fisheries management is often highly controversial and contentious, especially when stocks are down or when runs do not follow typical patterns. As an example, salmon runs are far more difficult to manage now because run timing and abundance are more variable than they were in the past. Giving these positions the protection of classified service helps ensure that experienced and capable staff can survive these changing conditions. It often takes many years for staff to gain the local area experience, knowledge, and trust of the users that is necessary to do a high quality job of fishery management. Making such positions exempt might increase the likelihood that staff would not stay in an area long enough to gain that experience.

Currently Division Director's are partially exempt and may change at the change of administration. It is necessary to have Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, and Regional Supervisors in the classified service in order to ensure continuity of knowledge and programs within the Division and to provide training positions for those wishing to continue to move up in the leadership of the Division. Creating a system where the entire leadership of the Division could be changed at one time, would be very damaging to the continuity of knowledge, programs, and morale.

7. FEDERAL FUND REDUCTIONS

Question:

- *Please examine the budget data concerning the federal grant reductions and discuss which management regime is a "drag" on the funding. For instance, does state management of Bering Sea Crab take up a large amount of funding proportionate to the other areas listed in the Commercial Fisheries power point slide entitled "Federal Grant Reductions?" Can some of these management areas be turned over to the feds? - Rep. Seaton*

Total expected cuts to programs funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service equal approximately \$6.07 million dollars. These grants fund, or help fund, rockfish, scallop, geoduck, sea urchin, shrimp, king crab, and Tanner crab research and management in all four regions of the state. They also help fund the states involvement in the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process. While management of Bering Sea crab is a federal responsibility, which could theoretically be returned to them, those fisheries are tremendously important to the economy of the state. Loss of the Bering Sea crab research funds, American Fisheries Act, and Extended Jurisdiction funds (Projects 3, 5, and 6 in Table 7 below) would likely to result in:

- Relinquishment of State of Alaska management of Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) king and Tanner crab fisheries – valued at over \$100 million annually.
- Elimination of state management of the statewide scallop fishery, valued annually at \$4.2 million.
- Elimination of State of Alaska management of Community Development Quota (CDQ) crab fisheries in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) – valued at \$12.5 million.
- Elimination of research needed for sustainable management of Westward Region groundfish and shellfish fisheries in State of Alaska waters valued at \$10 million.
- Elimination of stock assessment surveys for king crab stocks in the Aleutian Islands and Norton Sound.

The value of sustainable management of these fisheries is far greater to the state than the cost of funding these programs.

Table 7. FY 08 Omnibus Budget - Impacts to Commercial Fisheries Division, based on 1/21/08 Discussions With NMFS

PROJECT	FY 2007 Allocated¹	FY 2008 Request	FY 08 Enacted	FY 2007 vs. FY 2008	Actual CF Division Loss (or gain)	Comments
1. State of Alaska Rockfish Research	788,993	0	0	-788,993	-342,000	\$447.0 of the \$789.0 went to NMFS, the remaining \$342.0 went to ADF&G
2. Alaska Nearshore Fisheries State of Alaska	788,993	0	0	-788,993	-788,993	
3. American Fisheries Act - National Standards 4 and 8 State of Alaska	493,120	0	0	-493,120	-493,120	
4. Yukon River Salmon Agreement Studies	800,000	0	0	-800,000	-800,000	
5. Bering Sea Crab	1,873,857	1,000,000	0	-1,873,857	-1,873,857	
6. FMP Extended Jurisdiction State of Alaska	800,000	986,000	0	-800,000	-800,000	
7. Western Alaska Stock ID	197,249	0	0	-197,249	-197,249	
8. International Fisheries Commission (Transboundary)	394,495	396,000	396,000	1,505	1,505	The only budget that increased
9. Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Act	152,000	152,000	150,360	-1,640	-1640	
10. Pacific Salmon Treaty	3,880,930	2,988,000	2,968,517	-912,413	-741,000	\$171.0 of the \$3,880.9 went to NMFS, the remaining \$3709.0 went to ADF&G
11. Anadromous Fisheries Act	355,000	0	325,264	-29,736	-29736	
Total Cut to CF Division	10,524,637	5,522,000	3,840,141	-6,684,496	\$6,066,090	

8. MCDONALD LAKE SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT

Question:

- *Discuss generally the interplay between divisions in managing personal use and commercial fisheries on the same river and in the same lake. (this question may be appropriate for Comm Fish, Sport Fish, and Subsistence). Specifically discuss Macdonald Lake in Southeast. - Rep. Johansen*

In Southeast Alaska, the Commercial Fisheries Division manages commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries.

Due to expected continued low returns to McDonald Lake the Department implemented more conservative management measures in the District 6 driftnet fishery, the purse seine fisheries in portions of Districts 1, 5, and 7, and in the personal use fishery. The management actions proposed for the commercial fisheries are based on limited coded wire tag data. The Department acknowledges that over exploitation in commercial fisheries is not likely the most important cause for the decline in the stock. That said, the Department believes that it is appropriate to take steps to limit the exploitation of the stock in commercial net fisheries in Southern Southeast Alaska. As discussed during the 2006 industry task force meetings the approach for McDonald Lake was consistent with that the Department has taken for other stocks with escapement problems. That is, work from the most terminal fisheries out. The management actions that were planned for 2007 were:

District 6 Driftnet Fishery

"The District 6 gillnet fishery will be limited to 2 days a week for three weeks (normal fishery would be three days per week). Probably this will occur during stat weeks 29, 30, and 31. In 2005 and 2006 the department restricted the fishery for 2 weeks each year. We will also close the western side of Sumner Strait during the middle week of those three weeks. That closure will occur west of a line from Colpoys to Mitchell, essentially leaving the MacNamara shoreline in Sumner Strait open."

Purse Seine Fishery

"The directed seine fishery in Yes Bay will not open in 2007 (last open in 2003).

The District 1 purse seine fishery along the western shoreline of Gravina Island will not be opened north of the latitude of Cone Island at 55°14.45 N. latitude during statistical weeks 29, 30 and 31. For the 2007 season, this will mean that there will be no purse seine fishing north of this line until Sunday August 5."

"Fishing time and fishing area in seine areas where there is a high incidence of sockeye harvesting generally targeting those same three weeks however it might be a week earlier out in the Sumner Strait portion of District 5 which is the furthest area from McDonald. It also might be a week later in the closest area (southern portion of Section 7-B- Union Bay) to McDonald in this management area."

Personal Use Fishery

Prior to 2007, the Personal use fishery was managed as follows: Possession 25 – No annual Limit – June 1-Aug 30

Changes for 2007: Possession 20 – Annual Limit of 20 Imposed – July 1-Aug 30

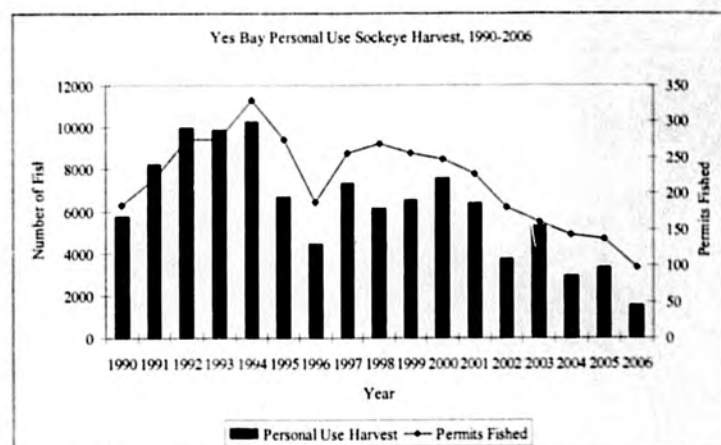


Figure 3. McDonald Lake sockeye personal use harvest and permits fished, 1990-2006.

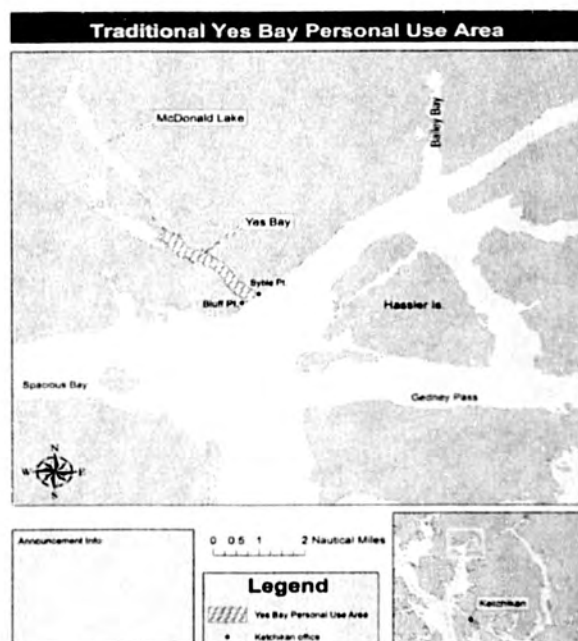


Figure 4. Yes Bay traditional personal use area.

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES and DIVISION OF SPORT FISHERIES

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February 7, 2008

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Mailstop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton:

This document provides answers to questions posed to Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fisheries divisions during the January 21, 2008 overview of ADF&G activities before the House Fisheries Committee.

Question:

- *Genetic Stock Analysis/Genetic Identifiers. Where is ADF&G at on this, what level of identification are you able to achieve, how is this growing in use, discuss in terms of discrete stock management. - Rep. Johansen*

Sockeye salmon

The sockeye salmon baseline currently contains information from 45 SNP markers assayed in 35,385 individuals in 393 collections from across the Pacific Rim. These collections represent approximately 350 populations. This baseline is being used in genetic stock identification of commercial harvests in Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet, and Southeast Alaska. It is also being used to investigate the stock-specific distribution of sockeye in the Bering Sea and in some test and sport fishery applications. The resolution available is excellent and is more than adequate for current management and research applications.

Region	Number of Collections	Number of individuals
Washington/Idaho	2	193
British Columbia	41	3,347
Southeast Alaska	36	3,244
North Gulf Coast	7	554
Southcentral Alaska	78	8,035
Kodiak and AK Peninsula	74	6,985
Bristol Bay	98	9,770
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	16	1,046
Russia	40	2,211
Total	393	35,385

Chinook salmon

The Chinook salmon baseline currently contains information from up to 53 SNP markers assayed in 24,726 individuals in 339 collections from across the Pacific Rim. These collections represent approximately 185 populations. This baseline is being used in genetic stock identification of commercial harvests in the Yukon River and Southeast Alaska. Additional applications are being developed to investigate the Copper River flats commercial fishery, the Kenai River sport fishery, and the pollock fishery bycatch in the Bering Sea. The resolution available is adequate for current management applications, but additional resolution is desired for populations in Norton Sound, lower Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, and western Bristol Bay.

Region	Number of Collections	Number of individuals
California	9	366
Oregon	3	282
Washington/Idaho	11	976
British Columbia	61	5,522
Southeast Alaska	50	3,965
North Gulf Coast	32	1,833
Southcentral Alaska	23	2,190
Kodiak and AK Peninsula	14	864
Bristol Bay	9	480
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	119	7,837
Russia	8	411
Total	339	24,726

Chum salmon

The chum salmon baseline currently contains information from up to 63 SNP markers assayed in 11,849 individuals in 146 collections from across the Pacific Rim. These collections represent approximately 115 populations. This baseline is being developed for use in genetic stock identification of commercial harvests in Alaska and the pollock fishery bycatch in the Bering Sea. The baseline indicates population structure adequate

for genetic stock identification for large-scale resolution in high-seas applications. Fine-scale resolution is available within the Yukon River and from the Alaska Peninsula to the southern extent of the species range. Additional resolution is desired to distinguish among populations within Norton Sound, lower Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, and Bristol Bay.

Region	Number of Collections	Number of individuals
Washington/Idaho	8	281
British Columbia	2	96
Southeast Alaska	11	887
Southcentral Alaska	7	568
Kodiak and AK Peninsula	17	1,307
Bristol Bay	8	636
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	59	5,606
Russia	13	745
Japan	19	1,532
Korea	2	191
Total	146	11,849

Other species

Most of the Gene Conservation Laboratory's effort has been concentrated on resolving sockeye, Chinook, and chum salmon stocks in commercial fisheries. Archived tissue samples are available for pink salmon in Prince William Sound and a few locations elsewhere in the state. Collections of coho salmon have been made opportunistically throughout the state. Future investigations in these species will be based on Department priorities.

Question:

- *List fisheries, both sport and commercial, dating back to 1990 when fishing opportunity was cut back to accommodate subsistence. – Reps. Johansen, Johnson, and Seaton*

The following shows commercial and subsistence fisheries that have been closed or restricted when it has been necessary to restrict uses when harvestable surplus was insufficient to provide for all uses, since 1992, when the current subsistence law went into effect. Also noted are sport fisheries restricted by emergency order since 2003 to provide for escapement and subsistence opportunities; and to comply with management plans.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Salmon

1. Section 13-B (Redfish and Necker): took cautionary approach to commercial seine openings for sockeye to ensure escapement and subsistence uses.

2. Section 13-A (Redoubt Bay): management plan adopted that precludes commercial fishing on returns forecast below 40,000 (adopted 2006). No closures to date. Sport fishery bag and possession limits reduced in the bay and lake consistent with the management plan implemented in 2003.

Shrimp

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): commercial guideline harvest level (GHL) at Hoonah Sound has been set conservatively knowing there is a significant annual subsistence harvest.

Saltwater sport fishery near Haines and Skagway closed in 2006 and 2007 for conservation purposes. Subsistence shrimp fishery remained open.

Crab

Sport Dungeness crab fishery in the Yakutat area closed in 2004 and 2005 for conservation purposes. Subsistence crab fishery remained open.

Steelhead

Sport fishing for steelhead restricted to catch and release in fresh waters of Prince of Wales and Kosciusko islands in 2004 and 2005 due to uncertainty associated with Federal subsistence harvest reports and lack of stock status information to ensure conservation of steelhead stocks.

WESTWARD REGION

Salmon

Kodiak: Litnik (Afognak Lake), over the past 10 years, the commercial fishery has been closed in June and July (targeting sockeye) every year since 2001 to ensure adequate escapement. Every year since 2002 the subsistence fishery has also been closed, although the closed area has been substantially smaller than the commercial closed area.

Chignik: In regulation, the sockeye commercial fishery is restrained until at least 20,000 escapement in June occurs and there is an optimum escapement goal (OEG) of 25,000 extra escapement in August and another 25,000 extra sockeye salmon in September to ensure subsistence opportunity.

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIIM (AYK) REGION

The most extensive restrictions have occurred in the AYK Region in order to provide adequate escapement in years of poor runs as outlined below. For Yukon fall chum salmon, commercial fishing was closed in 8 years; and subsistence in 5 years, due to extremely poor runs; and commercial fishing for Chinook was closed in 2 years. For Kuskokwim Chinook and chum, commercial fishing was closed in 4 years, and

subsistence fishing was restricted or closed in 2 years. In Norton Sound, there have been commercial and subsistence closures in several fishing districts since the mid 1990s due to very poor runs.

The tables on the following pages show these restrictions since 1992, when the current subsistence law went into effect.

AYK Region Commercial and Subsistence Restrictions and Closures, 1992-2007.						
Yukon Area Fishing Restrictions						
Fall Chum Salmon						
	Commercial Restricted	Commercial Closed		Subsistence Restricted	Subsistence Closed	Comments
1992	x	x				Closed Y-4, then liberalized Y-6.
1993		x		x	x	Reduced subsistence then closed. Comm, PU, and sport closed for fall chum then reopened late for coho.
1994		x		x	x	Closed commercial, PU, and subsistence in lower river then extended in upper river due to sonar issues.
1997	x					Initially run assessed to be marginal then allowed small commercial harvest later in season.
1998		x		x		Restricted subsistence for fall chum, then relaxed later for coho.
1999	x	x				Poor run; also closed personal use.
2000		x		x	x	Subsistence closed for fall chum and allowed conditional late coho fishing.
2001		x		x	x	Subsistence closed then reopened on reduced schedule.
2002		x			x	Fall chum subsistence closed with conditional late coho fishing.
2003	x			x		Conservative subsistence fishing until surplus identified.
Yukon Chinook Salmon						
	Commercial Restricted	Commercial Closed		Subsistence Restricted	Subsistence Closed	Comments
1998	x					Poor run, delayed fishing, limited

						fishing time.
2000	x	x		x		Very poor Chinook and chum runs.
2001		x				Commercial fishing season closed to provide escapement and subsistence.
Kuskokwim River Fishing Restrictions						
	Chinook and Chum Salmon					
	Commercial Restricted	Commercial Closed		Subsistence Restricted	Subsistence Closed	Comments
1993-1994	x	x				Commercial fishery restricted primarily to meet chum salmon escapement.
1999	x	x				Closed commercial because of poor Chinook and chum salmon runs.
2000	x	x		x		Closed commercial because of poor Chinook and chum salmon runs; Subsistence restricted to meet Chinook escapements.
2001		x		x	x	Closed commercial because of poor Chinook and chum salmon runs; Subsistence closed in George River.
2002-2006	x					Potential commercial fishing periods delayed to provide for Chinook subsistence use and escapement.

Norton Sound Fishing Restrictions						
Chum, Coho and Chinook Salmon						
	Commercial Restricted	Commercial Closed		Subsistence Restricted	Subsistence Closed	Comments
1992-2005		x			x	Nome Subdistrict - poor chum salmon runs; Tier II implemented in 1999.
1997, 1999, 2002-2004		x			x	Nome Subdistrict - poor coho salmon runs.

1997, 1999, 2002- 2004		x			x	Golovin Subdistrict - Poor coho runs with subsistence fishing closures
2000- 2007		x		x	x	Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts - Poor Chinook runs with commercial fishing closed and several years of subsistence restrictions or closures.

Northwest area: Emergency order sport fishing restrictions implemented on king salmon fishing in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers in 2003, 2006, and 2007 due to weak returns; and in the Unalakleet River in 2004. Both sport fisheries and subsistence fisheries were closed during part of the season.

Emergency order sport and subsistence restrictions implemented in 2004 and 2005 for coho salmon fishing in the Fish River drainage to ensure escapement.

Emergency order sport and subsistence restrictions implemented in 2004 for all salmon during much of the season.

Tanana area: Emergency order sport and subsistence pike fishing restrictions implemented during part of the 2007 season to comply with provisions of the Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

CENTRAL REGION:

Bristol Bay

Egegik, Ugashik, Naknek, or Kvichak districts: none.

Nushagak District: In 2003, the commercial coho fishery was closed and the subsistence fishery briefly reduced. In 2007, sport fish bag limit for Chinook was reduced, and the Chinook commercial fishery was closed.

Kvichak Drainage: Daily bag and possession limits in the sport fishery were reduced for waters upstream of the confluence of the Alagnak River to conform to the Kvichak River Drainage Sockeye Salmon Management Plan adopted by the Board of Fisheries in 2001. Four areas were closed in 2003 and 2006 consistent with the plan to ensure subsistence fishing opportunity.

Prince William Sound:

On the Copper River delta, the ADF&G gillnet fishery manager assigns fishing time based to a large degree on upriver escapement, a significant portion of which is utilized

by subsistence and personal use users. Time is restricted every year in order to allow for adequate numbers of fish to pass upriver for these uses. In addition, the department frequently closes the Copper River District to commercial harvest in order to assure adequate upriver escapement for these uses.

There have been no years on the Copper River where subsistence harvests have been closed, restricted or curtailed.

Lower Cook Inlet:

References in the following table pertain to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing in waters of Port Graham Subdistrict of the Southern District in Lower Cook Inlet. The vast majority of restrictions and/or closures in the commercial and subsistence fisheries were made to protect sockeye salmon returning to English Bay Lakes.

<u>Port Graham Subdistrict only YEAR</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL Set Gill Net SALMON FISHERY^a</u>				<u>SUBSISTENCE Set Gill Net SALMON FISHERY^b</u>			
	Not allowed to open at start of season	Closed entire season	Closed part of season	Open entire season	Not allowed to open at start of season	Closed entire season	Closed part of season	Open entire season
1992	✓	✓					✓	
1993	✓	✓					✓	
1994	✓	✓					✓	
1995	✓		✓				✓	
1996			✓					✓
1997				✓				✓
1998			✓					✓
1999	✓							✓
2000			✓					✓
2001	✓	✓					✓	
2002				✓				✓
2003			✓				✓	
2004	✓		✓					✓
2005	✓	✓					✓	
2006	✓		✓				✓	
2007	✓		✓				✓	

^a Commercial gillnet fishing season in Port Graham Subdistrict traditionally opens during first week of June.

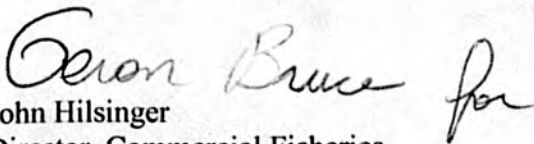
^b Subsistence gillnet fishing season in Port Graham Subdistrict traditionally opens April 1.

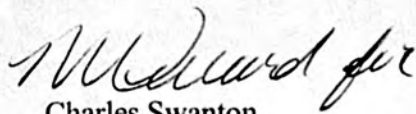
The Honorable Paul Seaton

February 7, 2008

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let us know if you have additional questions or would like to discuss the information in more detail.

Sincerely,


John Hilsinger
Director, Commercial Fisheries


Charles Swanton
Director, Sport Fisheries

cc. Tim Barry, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Elizabeth Andrews, Director, Subsistence

Overview of the Division of Commercial Fisheries

**Marine Fisheries
(Shellfish, Groundfish, Herring)
And Mariculture**

**John Hilsinger
Director**

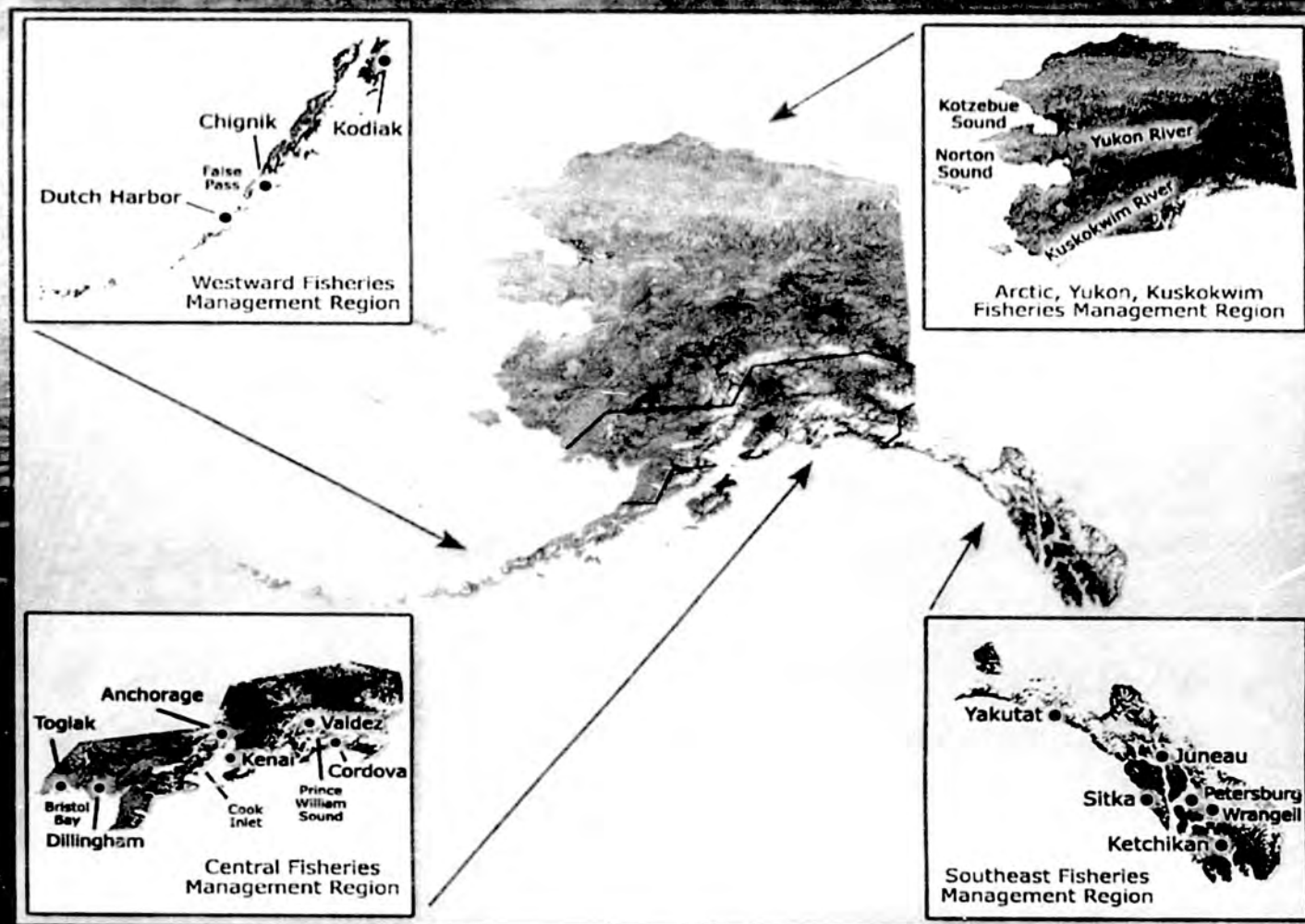
Primary Marine Fisheries And Mariculture Responsibilities

- **Manage commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries within state waters**
- **Manage shellfish species and some groundfish out to 200 miles**
- **Conduct stock assessment and applied research on marine resources**
- **Plan and permit shellfish hatcheries and mariculture operations**
- **Coordinate with Federal and International Fisheries Management Agencies**

Crab Boat Setting Pots In The Bering Sea



Fishery Management Regions



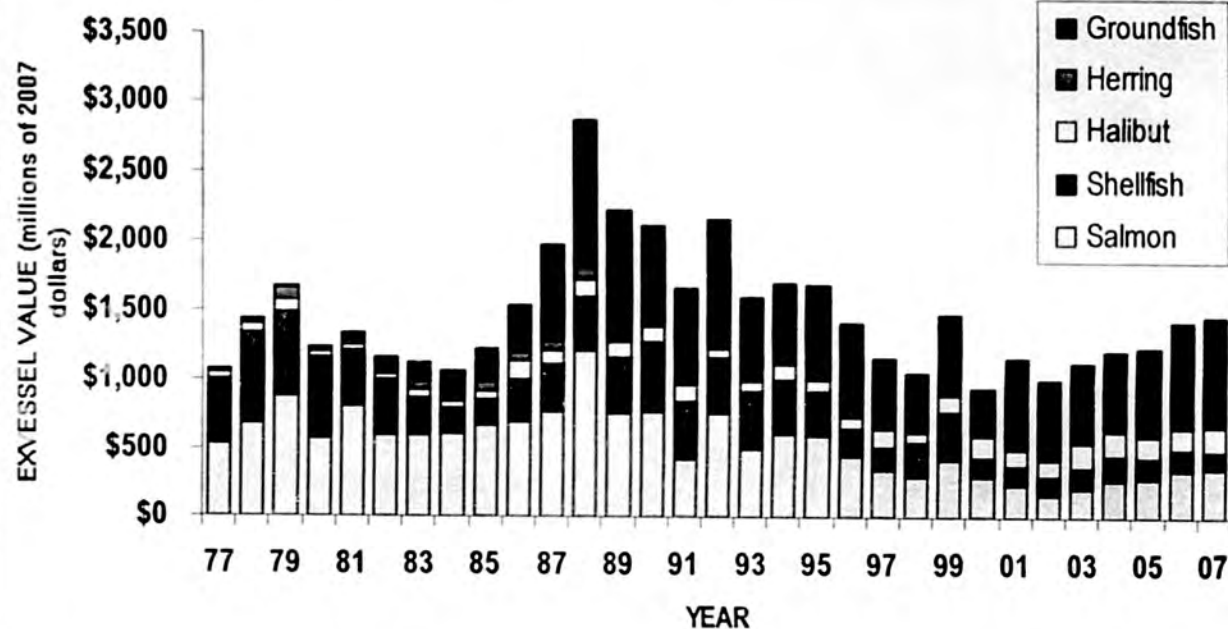
Exvessel Value Of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries

(Adjusted to Constant 1977 Dollars)

EXVESSEL VALUE

1977

Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries (inflation -adjusted to 2007 dollars).



Shellfish

Scallops

ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Weathervane Scallop Management Activities

Weathervane scallops are the largest scallops in the world and are the only scallop species targeted by commercial harvesters in Alaska at this time.

Nearly all management measures in the EEZ are delegated to the State of Alaska.

Fishery Requirements:

- 100% observer coverage
- No mechanical shucking
- Maximum crew size = 12
- Crab bycatch caps
- Dredges must meet specifications
- Number of dredges per vessel is limited (one or two, depending on area)

Black shaded areas describe the approximate distribution of scallop harvest areas in Alaska.

Gear

Weathervane scallops are captured by vessels towing New Bedford style dredges.

Season

July 1 to February 15, except in Kamishak bay where the season is August 15 to October 31.



Major commercial scallop beds are in the vicinity of:

1. Yakutat
2. Kayak Island
3. Kamishak Bay
4. Kodiak Island
5. Shelikof Strait
6. Southside of the Alaska Peninsula
7. Unalakleet Island
8. Bering Sea

Shellfish

Crab

ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Crab Management Activities

- Crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands account for the majority of landings.
- Crab stocks in Southeast Alaska support modest fisheries.

The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab stocks are jointly managed by the U.S. federal government and the State of Alaska, whereas the State of Alaska solely manages the Gulf of Alaska crab stocks (including Southeast Alaska).

BERING SEA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

- Red King Crab
- Tanner Crab
- Bristol Bay
- Norton Sound
- Petrel Bank
- Golden King Crab
- Aleutian Islands
- E. Aleutian Islands
- Snow Crab
- E. Bering Sea



SOUTHEAST

- Red King Crab
- Golden King Crab
- Blue King Crab
- Tanner Crab
- Dungeness Crab

KODIAK

- Dungeness Crab
- Tanner Crab

Shellfish

Shrimp

ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Shrimp Management Activities

- Spot shrimp, the largest and most valued Alaskan shrimp, are targeted with pot gear.
- Sidestripe shrimp are targeted with trawl gear.
- Coonsripe shrimp are targeted with pots.
- Northern (formerly "pink") shrimp are the primary species by weight and are targeted with bottom trawls.
- Humpy shrimp are primarily taken incidentally in trawls.

WESTWARD REGION

- **Trawl Gear**
 - Historically productive shrimp fishing grounds in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts have been closed since 1984.
 - Some areas outside the historically productive grounds are open seasonally to trawl gear.
- **Pot Gear**
 - Open year-round in most of the Westward Region, with the exception of 6 sections in the Kodiak and Chignik Districts.

CENTRAL REGION

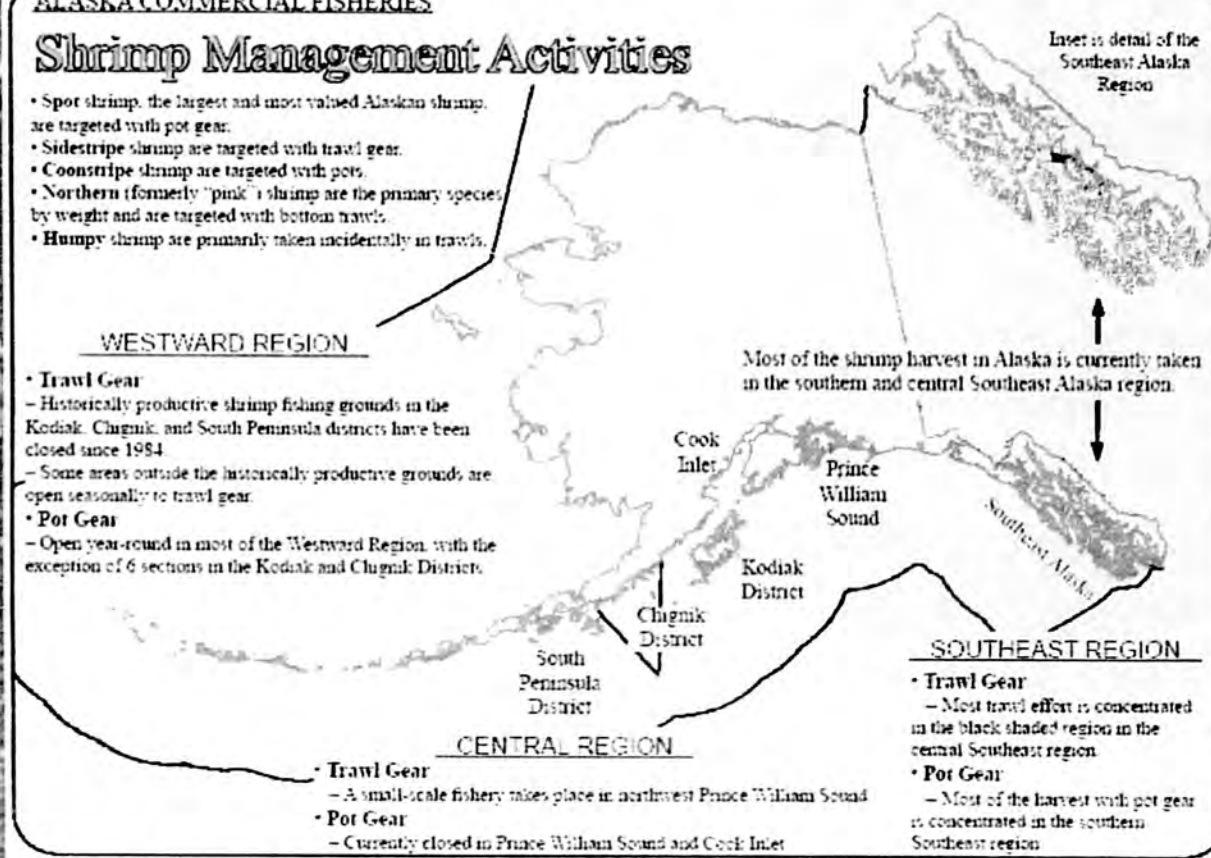
- **Trawl Gear**
 - A small-scale fishery takes place in northwest Prince William Sound.
- **Pot Gear**
 - Currently closed in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet.

SOUTHEAST REGION

- **Trawl Gear**
 - Most trawl effort is concentrated in the black shaded region in the central Southeast region.
- **Pot Gear**
 - Most of the harvest with pot gear is concentrated in the southern Southeast region.

Most of the shrimp harvest in Alaska is currently taken in the southern and central Southeast Alaska region.

Inset is detail of the Southeast Alaska Region



Preliminary 2007 Alaskan Shellfish Summary



Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries
2007 Shellfish Catch and Estimated Exvessel Values *

www.afg.state.ak.us

Source: ADF&G November 1, 2007

Note: Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Fisheries remain open or have recently closed, some data currently unavailable.

	GHL or TAC (millions of lb)	\$/lb	total pounds (millions)	Exvessel Value (millions)
King crab				
Bristol Bay red (October 15, 2006 to January 15, 2007)	13.9	\$3.48	13.89	\$48.00
Pribilof golden	No landings			
Pribilof blue	Closed			
Pribilof red	Closed			
St. Matthew blue	Closed			
Aleutian Islands red	Closed			
Aleutian Islands golden (August 15, 2006 to May 15, 2007)	5.13	\$1.58	4.64	\$7.33
Southeast red	Closed			
Southeast golden (on going)	0.52	\$4.32	0.57	\$2.47
Norton Sound (winter) red	N/A	\$3.06	0.01	\$0.02
Norton Sound (summer) red (includes CDQ)	0.32	\$2.50	0.31	\$0.69
total			19.42	\$58.52
Tanner & snow crab				
Bering Sea snow	32.9	\$1.40	32.32	\$45.25
Bering Sea Tanner	2.7	\$1.29	1.87	\$2.41
Kodiak Tanner	0.80	\$1.78	0.75	\$1.34
Eastern Aleutian Tanner	0.084		Confidential	
South Peninsula Tanner	0.20		Confidential	
Southeast Tanner	2.0	\$1.80	0.93	\$1.67
Chignik Tanner	Closed			
Yakutat Tanner	Closed			
total			35.87	\$50.67
Dungeness crab				
Southeast (ongoing)		\$2.12	4.84	\$10.26
Yakutat	Closed			
North Peninsula			Confidential	
Aleutian Island			Confidential	
South Alaska Peninsula	N/A	\$1.90	0.25	\$0.48
Kodiak	N/A	\$2.10	0.40	\$0.84
total			5.49	\$11.58
Hair crab				
Bering Sea (Pribilofs)				
total				
Shrimp				
Southeast trawl (ongoing)	0.35 to 1.60	\$1.29	0.03	\$0.01
Southeast pot (October 2006 to July 2007)	0.853	\$2.79	0.94	\$2.63
Yakutat trawl				
Yakutat pot (October 2006 to July 2007)	0.015	N/A	confidential	
Prince William Sound trawl (ongoing)	0.11	N/A	confidential	
Bering Sea				
total			0.97	\$2.64
Misc. Shellfish				
Cook Inlet hard shell clams	0.0133			
Scallops, statewide (July 2006 to July 2007)	0 to 0.57	\$7.00	0.49	\$3.40
Chignik sea cucumbers (October to GHL limit)	No landings			
Kodiak sea cucumbers (October to GHL limit)	0.15		confidential	
Southeast sea cucumbers (Oct 2006 to Sept 2007)	1.60	\$1.98	1.60	\$3.16
Southeast geoducks (Oct 2006 to Sept 2007)	0.69	\$3.68	0.73	\$2.67
Southeast sea urchins (Oct 2006 to Sept 2007)	5.60	\$0.30	0.62	\$0.19
total			3.44	\$9.42
15-Jan-08				
Grand Totals			65.19	\$132.83

Source: Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game / Division of Commercial Fisheries

PRELIMINARY DATA ARE NOT FOR USE FOR ANY LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS

Note: Some crab, shrimp, and miscellaneous shellfish fisheries are still in progress.

* Price per pound is a preliminary estimate based on reports from Area Staff

Final figures may not exactly total because of rounding.

DATA NOT FOR LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS.

Groundfish

ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Groundfish Management Activities

STATEWIDE

- Lingcod in all waters of Alaska and the EEZ
- Sablefish within 0-3 miles for non-IFQ permit holders. New limited program in 1995
- Pacific cod in state waters in 1997 under a new program

ALASKA PENINSULA

- Black rockfish with jig gear (Dutch Harbor). New limited program in 1995
- Pacific cod in state waters in 1997 under new program

COOK INLET

- Limited groundfish resources in state waters of Cook Inlet.
- Pacific cod in state waters in 1997 under a new program.
- Directed rockfish and lingcod fishery with jig gear.

SOUTHEAST

- Sablefish in the NSEI and SSEI Management Areas. New limited entry program in 1995.
- Lingcod in all waters of Alaska from the EEZ to 144° W Longitude.
- Black rockfish in all waters of Alaska from the EEZ to 140° W Longitude.
- Demersal shelf rockfish in all waters of Alaska from the EEZ to 140° W Longitude.
- All other groundfish in internal state waters and 0-3 nautical miles from the EEZ to 144° W longitude.

140° W Long.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

- All major species (rockfish, lingcod, pollock, sablefish, pacific cod) in internal waters
- Pacific cod in state waters in 1997 under a new program.

KODIAK

- Pacific cod in state waters in 1997 under new program
- Black rockfish with jig gear



Groundfish

2007 Alaska Commercial Groundfish Harvests & Exvessel Values in State - Managed Fisheries*

Source: ADFG, November 2, 2007

<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>

PRELIMINARY DATA

Area	Species	Total Lb. (Round)	Total Lb. (Landed)	Average \$/lb.*	Exvessel Value
SOUTHEAST	Lingcod	310,352	229,447	\$1.01	\$304,085
	Pacific Cod	416,247	403,454	\$0.50	\$183,668
	Black Rockfish	3,078	3,039	\$0.43	\$1,293
	Sablefish	2,226,767	2,190,456	\$2.61	\$5,806,647
	Demersal Shell Rockfish†	500,075	496,183	\$1.20	\$187,865
	Other Rockfish	241,461	237,039	\$0.81	\$139,240
	totals	3,697,960	3,561,618		\$8,923,804
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND	Lingcod	29,450	25,150	\$0.82	\$24,203
	Pacific Cod	345,684	246,357	\$0.48	\$107,820
	Sablefish	188,648	173,211	\$2.26	\$427,143
	Walleye Pollock	2,599,139	2,599,139	\$0.11	\$298,237
	Rockfish	73,472	70,934	\$0.39	\$28,660
	totals	3,236,393	3,114,800		\$945,653
COOK INLET	Lingcod	9,243	8,009	\$0.40	\$3,732
	Pacific Cod	1,442,349	1,413,513	\$0.48	\$690,170
	Sablefish	76,889	76,454	\$2.42	\$186,224
	Rockfish	15,373	15,155	\$0.35	\$5,406
	Walleye Pollock	1,523	1,493	\$0.10	\$146
	totals	1,545,377	1,514,704		\$866,684
KODIAK	Lingcod	54,028	52,891	\$0.45	\$23,801
	Pacific Cod	6,421,591	6,296,353	\$0.44	\$2,770,365
	Black Rockfish	164,587	163,435	\$0.33	\$53,934
	totals	6,640,206	6,512,679		\$2,848,130
BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS	Sablefish	229,272	153,094	\$3.37	\$515,927
	Pacific Cod	10,373,241	9,846,133	\$0.38	\$3,741,531
	Black Rockfish	confidential	confidential	confidential	confidential
	totals	10,602,513	9,999,227		\$4,257,458
AK PENINSULA	Pacific Cod	12,678,186	12,424,622	\$0.48	\$5,993,819
	Black Rockfish	45,287	45,190	\$0.36	\$16,271
	totals	12,723,473	12,469,818		\$5,990,089
CHIGNIK	Pacific Cod	5,704,453	5,590,372	\$0.45	\$2,515,667
	Black Rockfish	59,848	59,848	\$0.48	\$28,727
	Lingcod	965	877	\$0.55	\$482
	totals	5,765,266	5,651,097		\$2,544,877
ALASKA TOTALS	Lingcod	404,038	319,463	\$1.13	\$357,168
	Pacific Cod	37,383,751	36,220,804	\$0.44	\$16,033,070
	Walleye Pollock	2,600,662	2,600,632	\$0.11	\$298,386
	Black Rockfish	269,722	268,470	\$0.37	\$98,931
	Rockfish	2,815,687	2,774,728	\$2.28	\$6,328,572
	Sablefish	497,887	405,758	\$2.79	\$1,130,587
	totals	43,971,747	42,596,904		\$24,246,744

* State-managed harvests include directed fishery catch and bycatch recorded on fish tickets. The state manages some groundfish species both in state waters within 3 miles from shore and in the exclusive economic zone out to 200 miles. These species include tusk rockfish off of SEAK, PWS, Kodiak, Chignik, and the Alaska Peninsula, demersal shell rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, and lingcod in all areas. Harvests may include catch from test fisheries or confiscated catch that may not be considered part of the fishery quota or guideline harvest for purposes of managing the fishery. Harvests in state waters during parallel seasons (when adjacent waters of the EEZ are open for groundfish fishing for the same species, under similar management regulations) are not included. Halibut and bycatch of halibut are not included.

* The price per pound is based on Area Staff estimates.

† Demersal shell rockfish are managed as an assemblage of canary, China, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger, & yelloweye (red snapper) rockfish.

DATA NOT FOR LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS.

Herring Management Activities

An aerial photograph showing a large, dark, irregularly shaped area on a light-colored, rocky or sandy terrain. This dark area represents a herring spawn. The surrounding terrain is rugged and uneven, with some darker patches and lighter, more uniform areas. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, providing a clear view of the spawn's extent and its location on the island.

Herring Spawn, Summit Island, 2003. Photo by Gordon Kruse, UAF.

Herring Management Activities

2007 ALASKA SAC ROE HERRING CATCH

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries

Preliminary Data as of November 2, 2007

Fishery	Openings Season Dates	Duration (hours)	Harvest (short tons)		Roe Percent	Estimated *Price Per Ton (short tons)	Estimated Exvessel Value
			Catch	Quota			
Southeast							
Kah Shakes/Cat Is.	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
Sitka Sound	3/30 - 4/3	13.7	11,570	11,904	11.40%	\$465	\$5,380,050
Seymour Canal	5/13 - 5/14	39	1,107	1,292	14.00%	n/a	
Hobart/Houghton	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
West Behm Canal	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
Prince William Sound							
Seine	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
Gillnet	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
Cook Inlet							
Upper Cook Inlet	4/20 - 6/1	43 days	13	150		\$1,850	\$24,050
Lower Cook Inlet	NO FISHERY - BELOW THRESHOLD						
Kodiak^b							
Alaska Peninsula		28 days	2,546	4,000	10.8%	\$400	\$1,018,400
North Peninsula	NO FISHERY - NO MARKET						
South Peninsula	NO FISHERY - NO MARKET						
Bristol Bay (Togiak)							
Seine	05/10-05/20	244	10,484	16,544	10.20%	\$112	\$1,377,678
Gillnet	05/10-05-31	510	3,141	7,090	10.80%	\$122	\$491,687
Kuskokwim							
Securty Cove	NO PARTICIPATION						
Goodnews Bay	NO PARTICIPATION						
Cape Avinof	NO PARTICIPATION						
Nelson Island	NO PARTICIPATION						
Nunivak Island	NO PARTICIPATION						
Yukon Coast							
Cape Romanzof	NO PARTICIPATION						
Norton Sound							
Seine	NO PARTICIPATION						
Gillnet	NO PARTICIPATION						
Port Clarence	NO PARTICIPATION						
Statewide Total			28,861	40,980			\$8,291,869

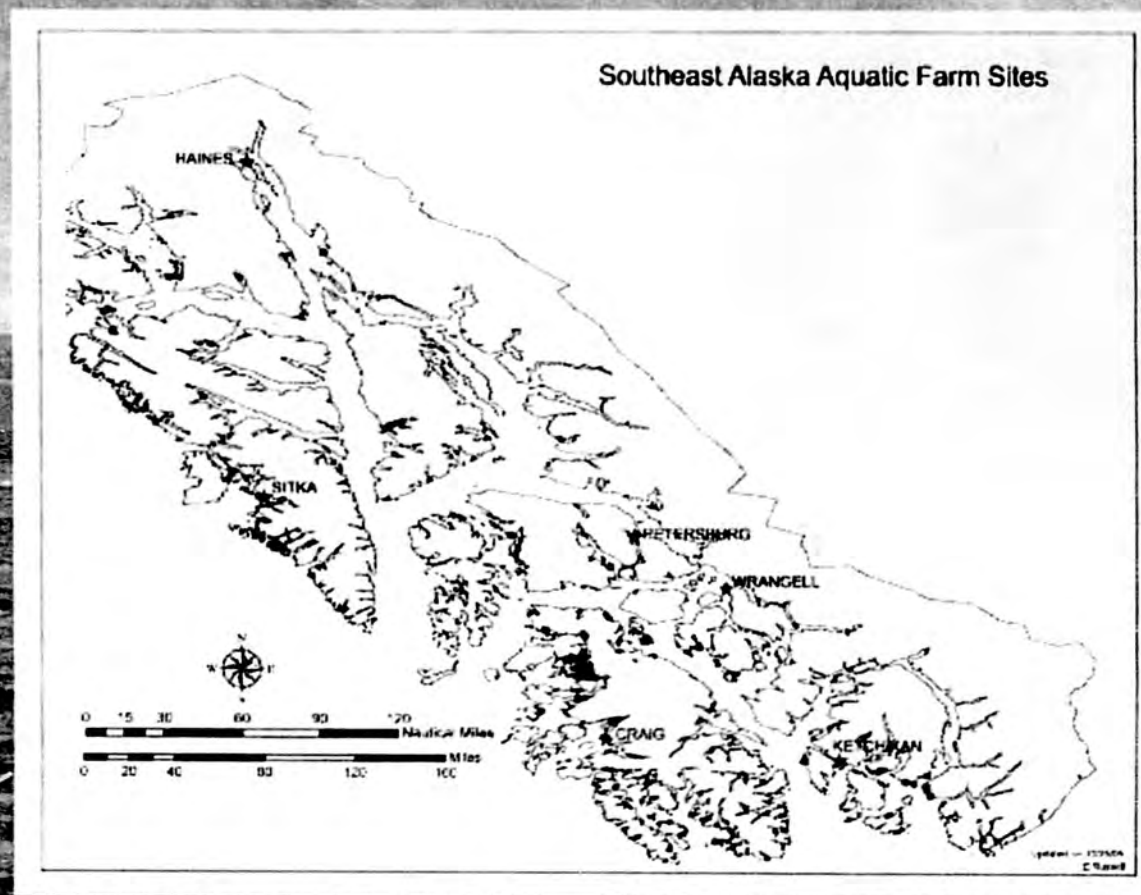
Source: ADF&G / Division of Commercial Fisheries

* Price per ton is a preliminary estimate.

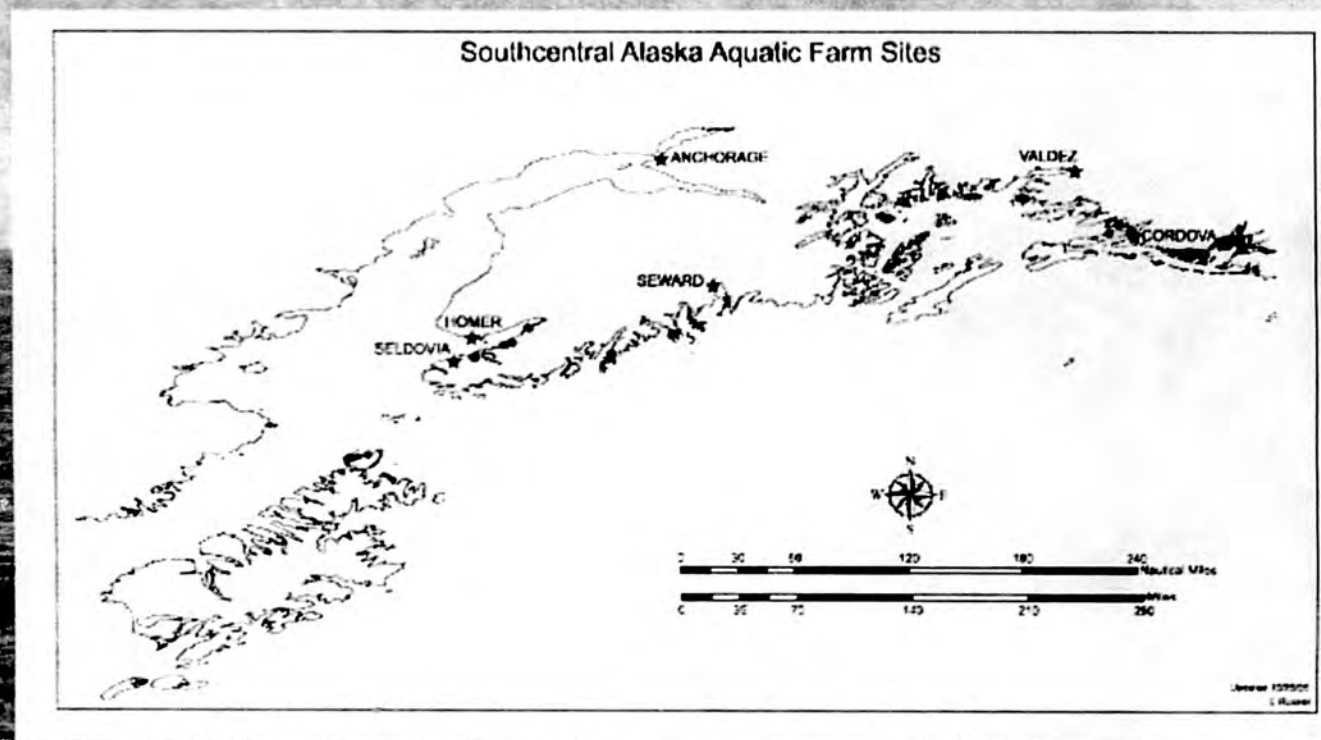
^b Kodiak has GHLs rather than quotas.

Figures within this table may not total exactly or match figures from other summary tables due to rounding or differing methods of calculation. DATA NOT FOR LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS

Mariculture

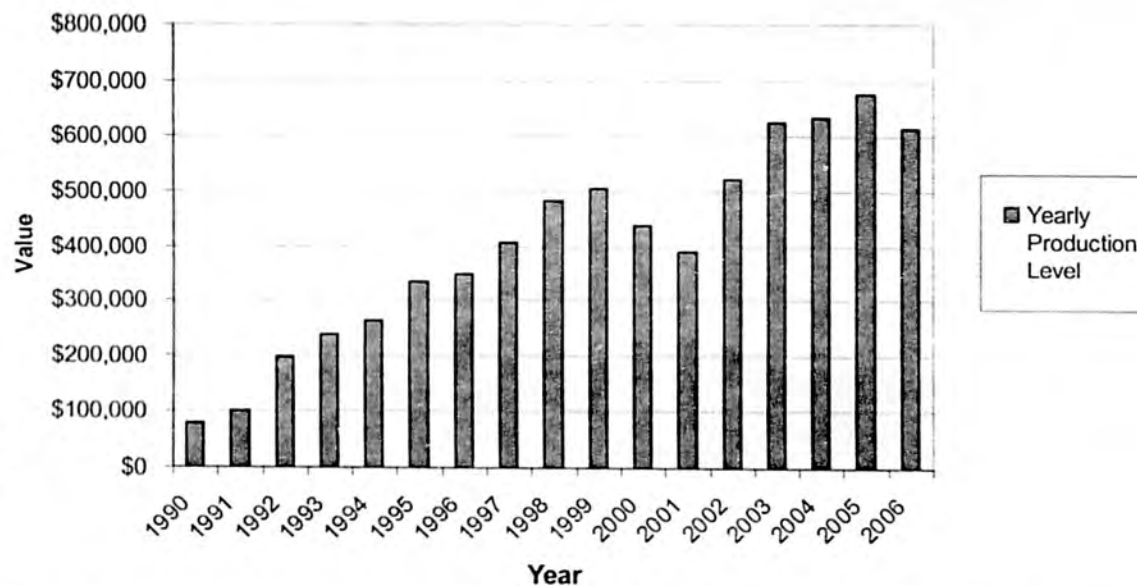


Mariculture



Mariculture

Statewide Aquatic Farm Production
1990-2006



Core Services

- **Stock Assessment & Applied Research**
- **Harvest Management**
- **Laboratory Services**
- **Aquaculture Permitting**
- **Data Processing**
- **Information Services and Public Participation**

Major Issues

- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
- FEDERAL NOAA BUDGET CUTS
- Scallop Limited Entry
- PNP Hatchery/Mariculture Reorganization
- King Crab Enhancement
- Lynn Canal Herring ESA Listing

Recruitment and Retention



In Fiscal Year 2008:

- **302 PFT**
- **Currently 41 vacant (14%)**
- **Fishery Scientist I**
 - 8 weeks
 - all applicants WPA
 - AFS web site
 - 2 applicants
- **Fishery Scientist II**
 - 8 weeks
 - all applicants WPA
 - AFS web site
 - no applicants

Federal Grant Reductions

In State Fiscal Year 2009:

- **Significant or complete cuts in virtually all federal grants from Department of Commerce (NOAA).**
- **Affecting rockfish research, nearshore marine fisheries, American Fisheries Act, FMP Extended Jurisdiction, and Bering Sea Crab management. Also may affect salmon.**
- **Total reduction may exceed \$5 million.**

Scallop Management

- Agenda Change Request will be taken up March 3-9
- Draft management plans for each region
- retain observer requirement
- registration year and deadline
- register for state or federal waters
- separate state management
- open/close by E.O
- daily reporting
- considering VMS

PNP Hatchery/Mariculture Restructure

- **Increment \$261.5**
- **Three positions**
 - **Regional Supervisor to oversee permitting, mark-tag lab, pathology**
 - **FB III for PNP hatcheries**
 - **FB II for mariculture**



**Thank you.
Questions?**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish

2008 Report to the House Fisheries Committee

Charlie Swanton, Director
Rob Bentz, Deputy Director



ADE&G Mission

- Protect, maintain, and improve fish, game, and aquatic plant resources.

- Manage resource use/development in

interest of the

economy and the

well-being of

Alaskans consistent

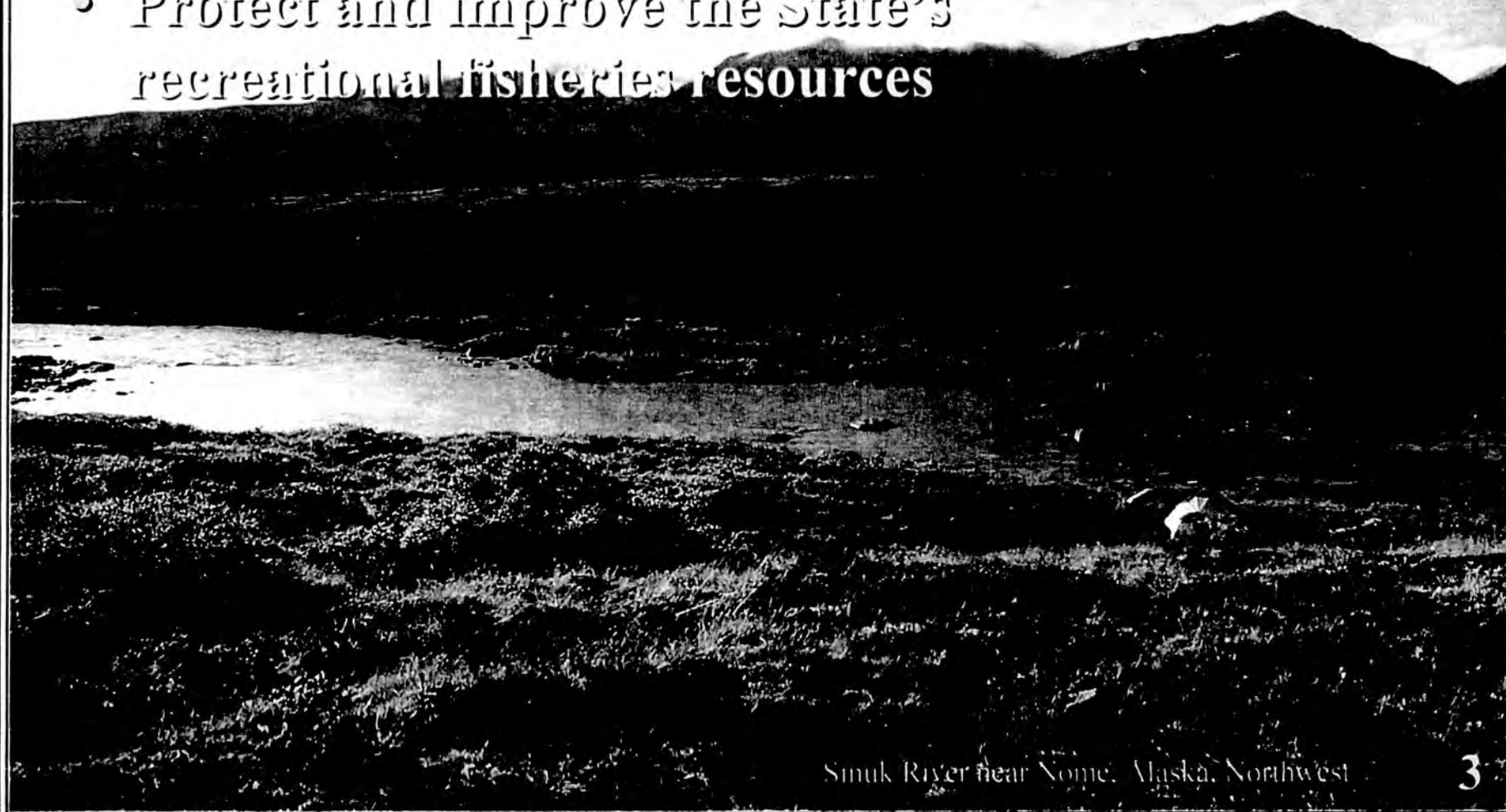
with the Sustained

Yield Principle.

Summit Lake rainbow trout stock assessment, Southcentral
(near Glennallen-Copper River Drainage)

Division of Sport Fish Mission

- Protect and improve the State's recreational fisheries resources



Sinuk River near Nome, Alaska, Northwest

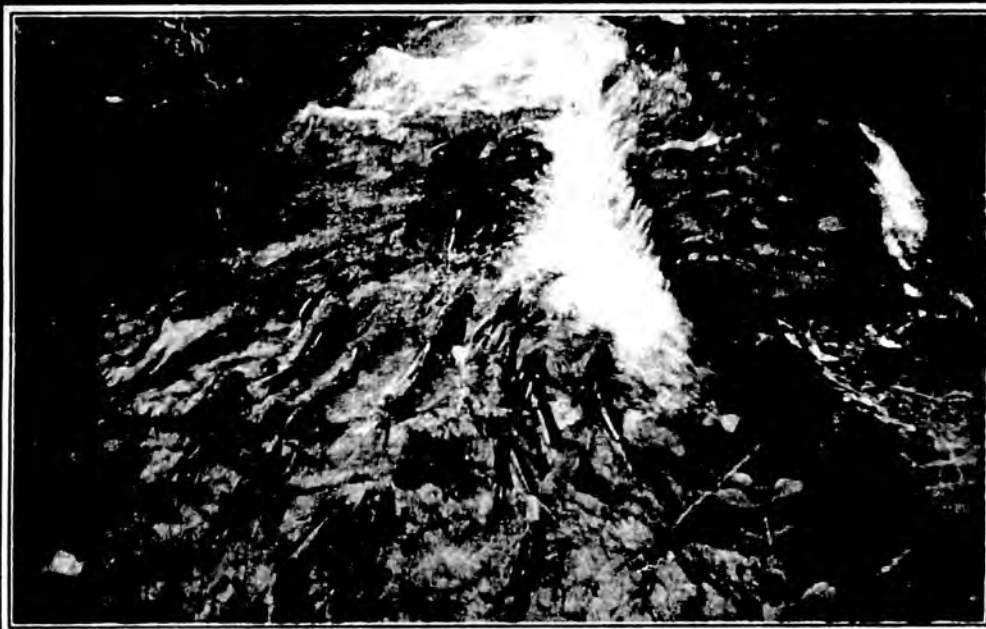
Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Fisheries Management



Sport Fish biologists working with Dolly Varden,
Ivishak River, North Slope

Sockeye salmon migrating up a Southeastern stream

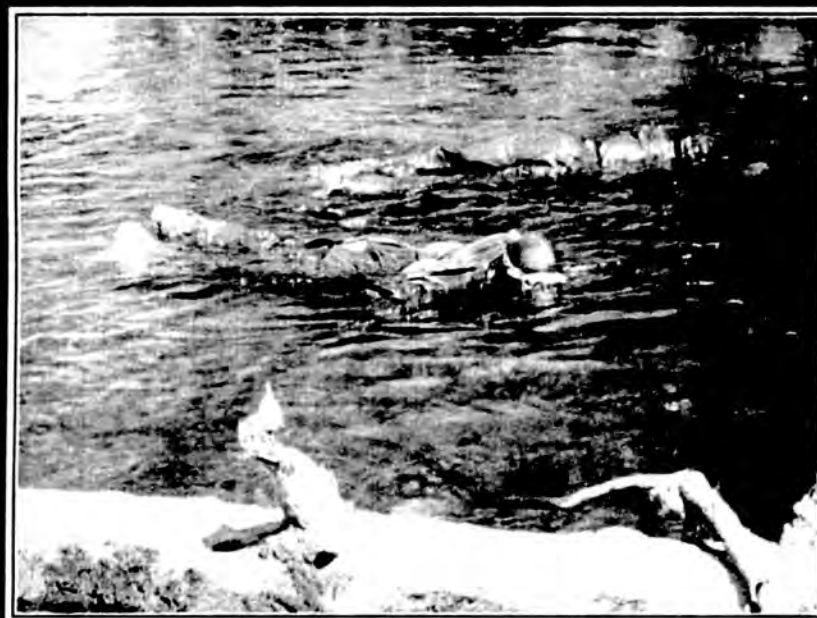


Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Fishery Stock Assessment (resident species and salmon)
 - Mark-Recapture experiments
 - Weirs
 - Sonar



Sport fish biologists collecting genetic samples from Chinook salmon, Chitina River, Southeast



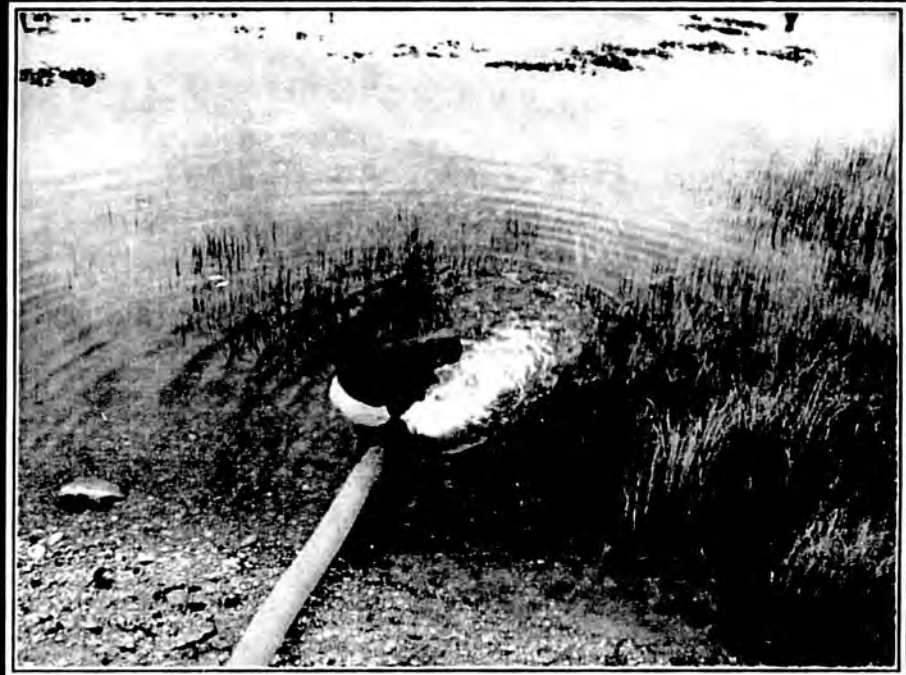
Sport Fish biologists conducting a steelhead snorkel survey, Naha River, Southeast

Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock Assessment
- Hatchery Production



Rainbow trout fingerlings from Ft. Richardson hatchery, Southeast



Sport Fish biologist stocking J Lake with rainbow trout fingerlings, Interior

Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock Assessment
- Hatchery Production
- Access Development & Maintenance

Little Susitna River Boat Ramp, Southeast



Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock Assessment
- Hatchery Production
- Access
- Habitat Assessment



Fish community inventory, Nushagak drainage, Southwest

Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock assessment
- Hatchery Production
- Access
- Habitat Assessment
- Information & Education



Senior citizen ice fishing at Chena Lakes with Fairbanks I&E Program, Interior

Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock assessment
- Hatchery Production
- Access
- Habitat Assessment
- Information & Education
- Enforcement



Illegal harvest of chum salmon on the
Yukon River, Interior

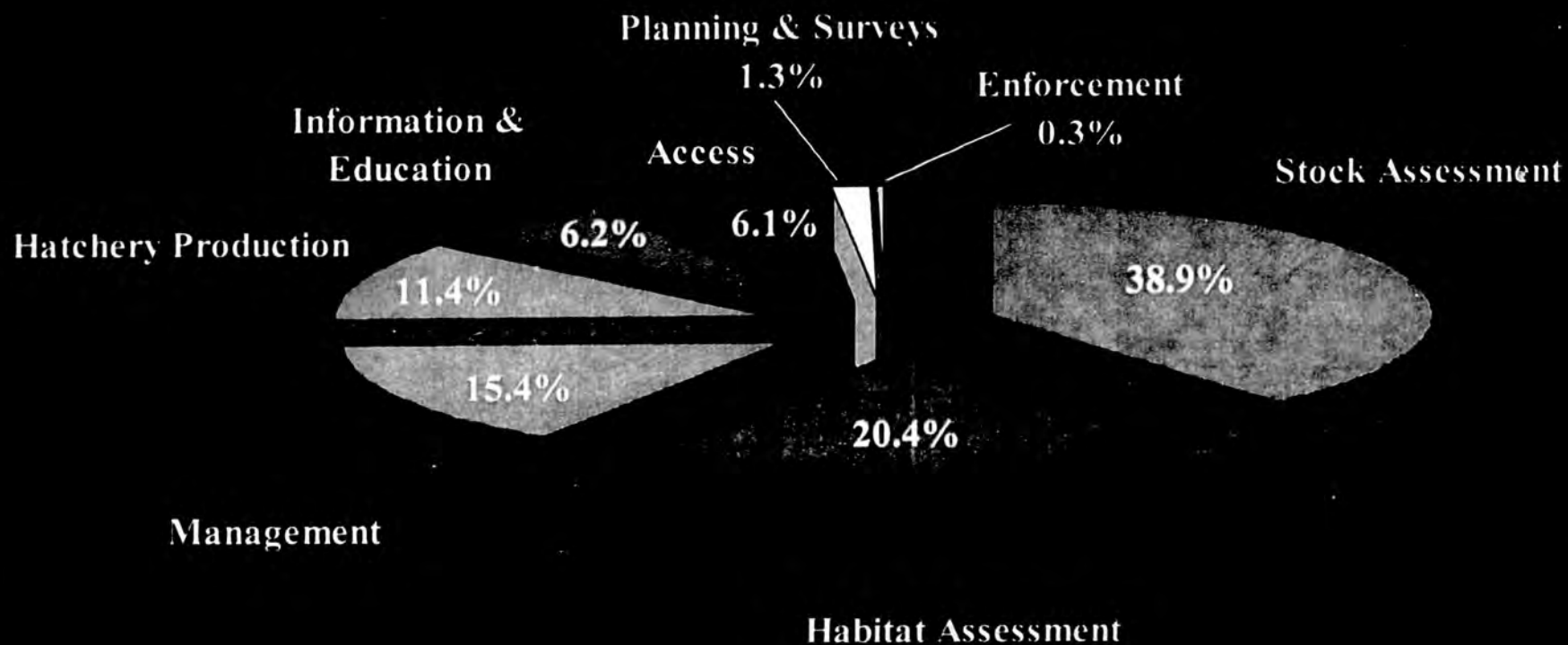
Sport Fish Division Core Services

- Management
- Stock Assessment
- Hatchery Production
- Access
- Habitat Assessment
- Information & Education
- Enforcement
- Planning & Surveys

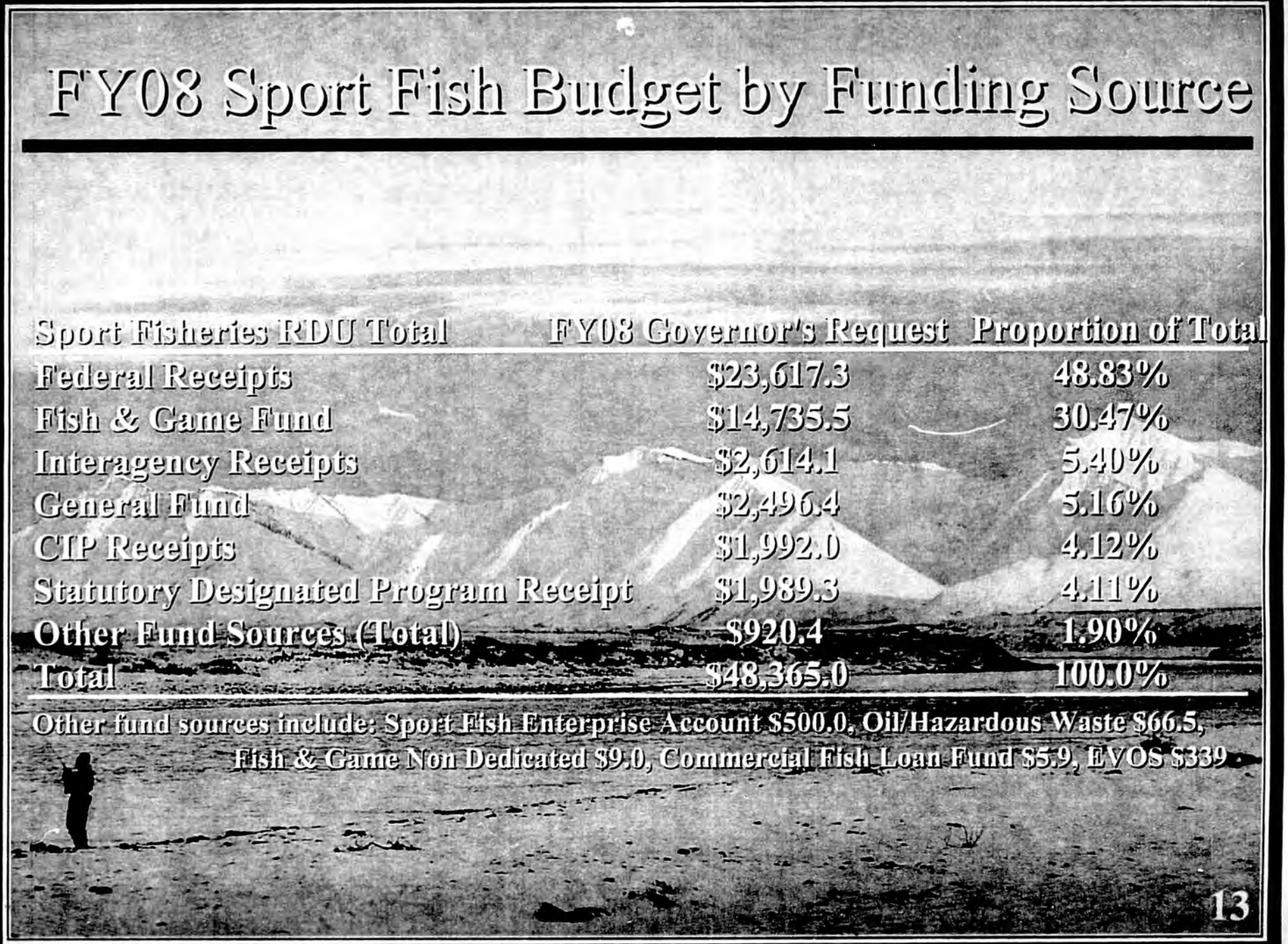


Sport Fish Fairbanks working on strategic plan. Interior

FY08 Budget by Core Services



FY08 Sport Fish Budget by Funding Source



Sport Fisheries RDU Total	FY08 Governor's Request	Proportion of Total
Federal Receipts	\$23,617.3	48.83%
Fish & Game Fund	\$14,735.5	30.47%
Interagency Receipts	\$2,614.1	5.40%
General Fund	\$2,496.4	5.16%
CIP Receipts	\$1,992.0	4.12%
Statutory Designated Program Receipt	\$1,989.3	4.11%
Other Fund Sources (Total)	\$920.4	1.90%
Total	\$48,365.0	100.0%

Other fund sources include: Sport Fish Enterprise Account \$500.0, Oil/Hazardous Waste \$66.5, Fish & Game Non Dedicated \$9.0, Commercial Fish Loan Fund \$5.9, EYOS \$339.

Sport Fish Division Funding Sources

- Federal Receipts
 - Sport Fish Restoration (71.5% of the 48.8%)
 - Pacific Salmon Treaty
 - NOAA

Federal
Receipts
48.8%

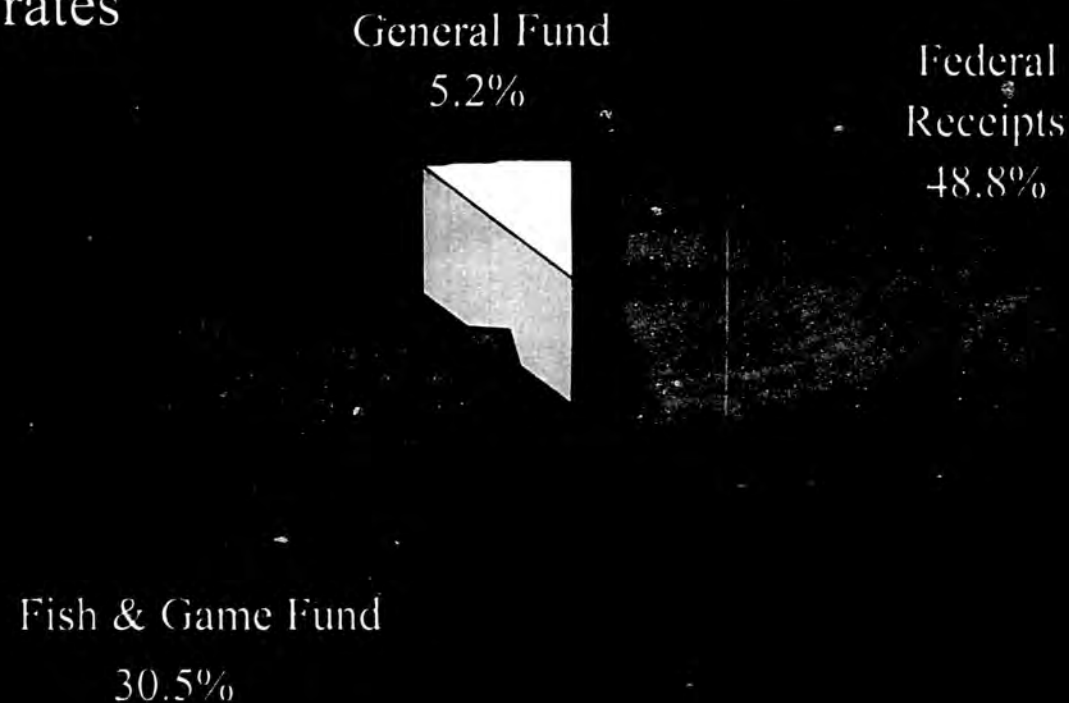
Sport Fish Division Funding Sources

- Federal Receipts
- Fish & Game Fund
 - sport fish license and king salmon stamp sales
 - fish operator and guide license fees



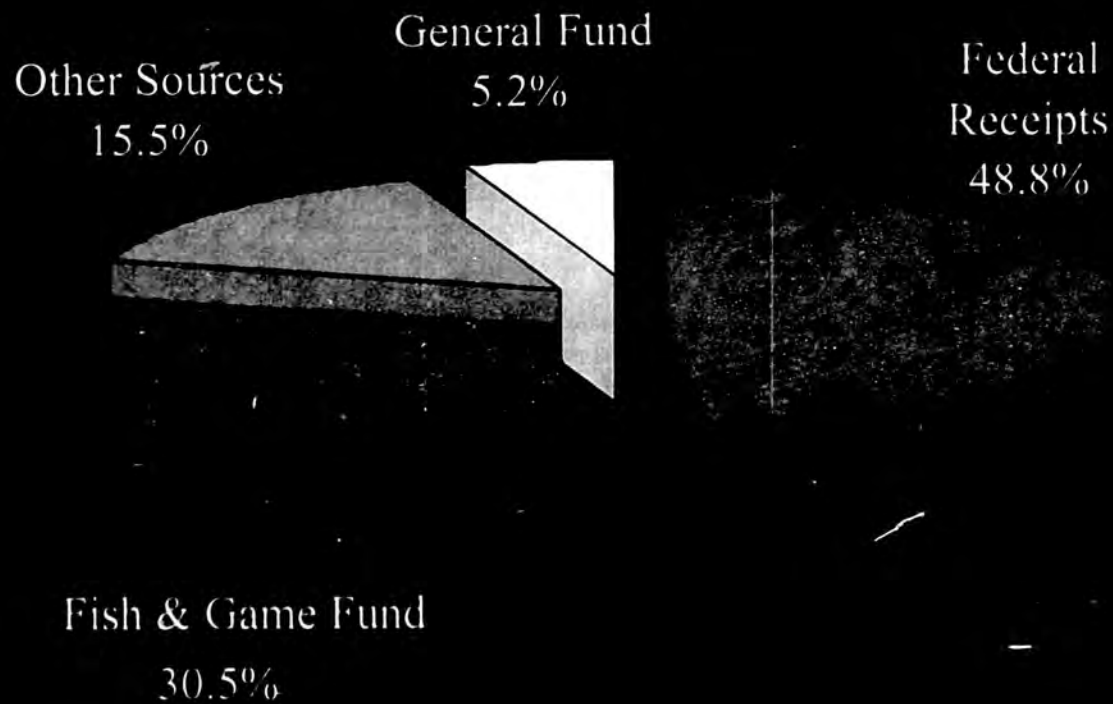
Sport Fish Division Funding Sources

- Federal Receipts
- Fish & Game Fund
- General Fund
 - Special Area Permitting and increased PERS and Labor contract rates



Sport Fish Division Funding Sources

- Federal Receipts
- Fish & Game Fund
- General Fund
- Other Sources



Sport Fish Division Funding Sources (Summary)

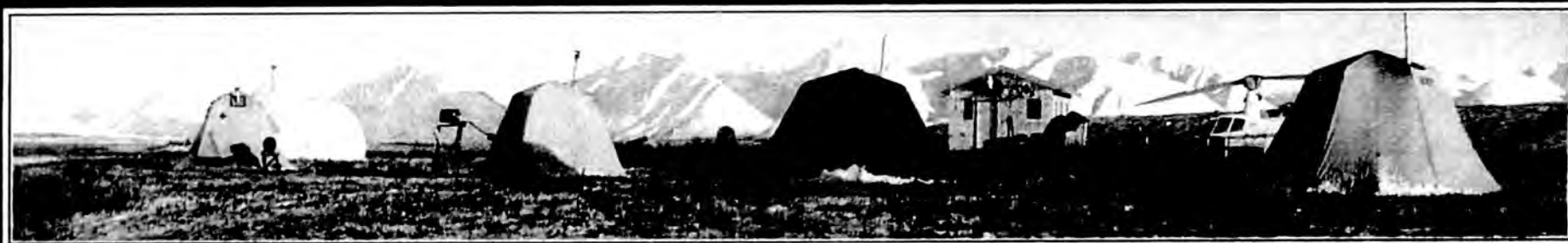
- Large percentage based on “user pay” fees
- Strategic plan founded and priority driven fund distribution
- Minimal reliance on State fiscal resources

Young anglers with their burbot catch, Tanana River,
Interior



Sport Fishing Statistics (2006)

- 473,805 anglers
- 487,000 resident & non-resident sport fish licenses
- 2,298,092 angler-days
- Division is conducting survey to determine 2007 estimates of expenditures, jobs, and economic impact of statewide sport fishing by key management regions (available Dec 2008)



Sport Fish camp working with Dolly Varden on the Ivishak River, North Slope

Sources:

Division of Sport Fisheries 2006 Statewide Harvest Survey

Division of Administrative Services License Sale Statistics Report

Sport Fish Division Organization

- Region I (Southeast)



Sport Fish Division Organization

- Region I (Southeast)
- Region II (Southcentral)
includes Aleutian Islands



Sport Fish Division Organization

- Region I (Southeast)
- Region II (Southcentral)
- Region III (Interior)



Sport Fish Division Organization

- Region I (Southeast)
- Region II (Southcentral)
- Region III (Interior)
- Research & Technical Services
- Habitat Assessment & Restoration
- Headquarters



Sport Fish biologist stocking lakes by helicopter, Interior

Sport Fish Division Offices & Employees

- 3 regional offices and headquarters
- 22 area offices
- 458 employees (251 permanent & 207 seasonal)



Fairbanks Regional Sport Fish Information Center

Types of Fisheries

- Sport Fisheries
 - high-use road-accessible
 - freshwater and saltwater
 - guided and unguided
 - remote
 - youth-only
 - winter
- Personal-Use (Kenai and Chitina dip net fisheries)
- Shellfish Fisheries
- Educational

Angler fishing early morning on the Kenai River, Southcentral

Types of Fisheries (Sport)

High-use road-accessible



Anglers fishing Montana Creek, Parks Highway, Southcentral

Types of Fisheries (Sport)

Freshwater



Angler with a rainbow trout, Southcentral

Saltwater



Angler with a yelloweye rockfish, Southeast

Types of Fisheries (Sport)

Guided



Guided angler on the Kenai River, Southeast

Unguided



Angler on the Kwethluk River, Southwest

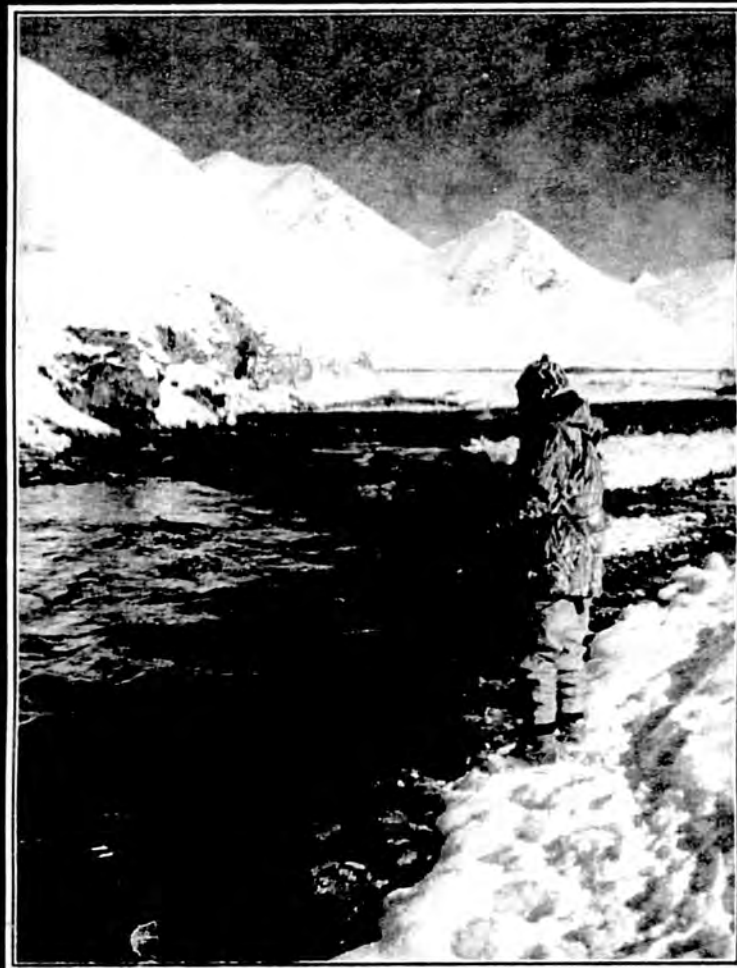
Types of Fisheries (Sport)

Remote



Anglers fishing the Wood River area, Southwest

Angler fishing the Saviukviayak River, North Slope



Types of Fisheries (Sport)

Youth-Only



Catch at Campbell Creek youth-only fishery, Southeastern

Types of Fisheries (Sport)

Winter



Angler on Volkmar Lake ice fishing, Interior



Angler on Chena Lakes ice fishing, Interior

Types of Fisheries (Personal-Use)

Dip Net Fisheries in Kenai and Chitina



Dip netters fishing for salmon on the Kenai River,
Southcentral

Dip netters fishing for salmon on the Copper
River, Southcentral



Types of Fisheries (Shellfish)



Clam diggers at Clam Gulch, Southcentral

Types of Fisheries (Educational)

Kalskag Science Camp



Young anglers participating in the Kalskag Science Camp, Southwest

Sport Fish Division Targets & Measures

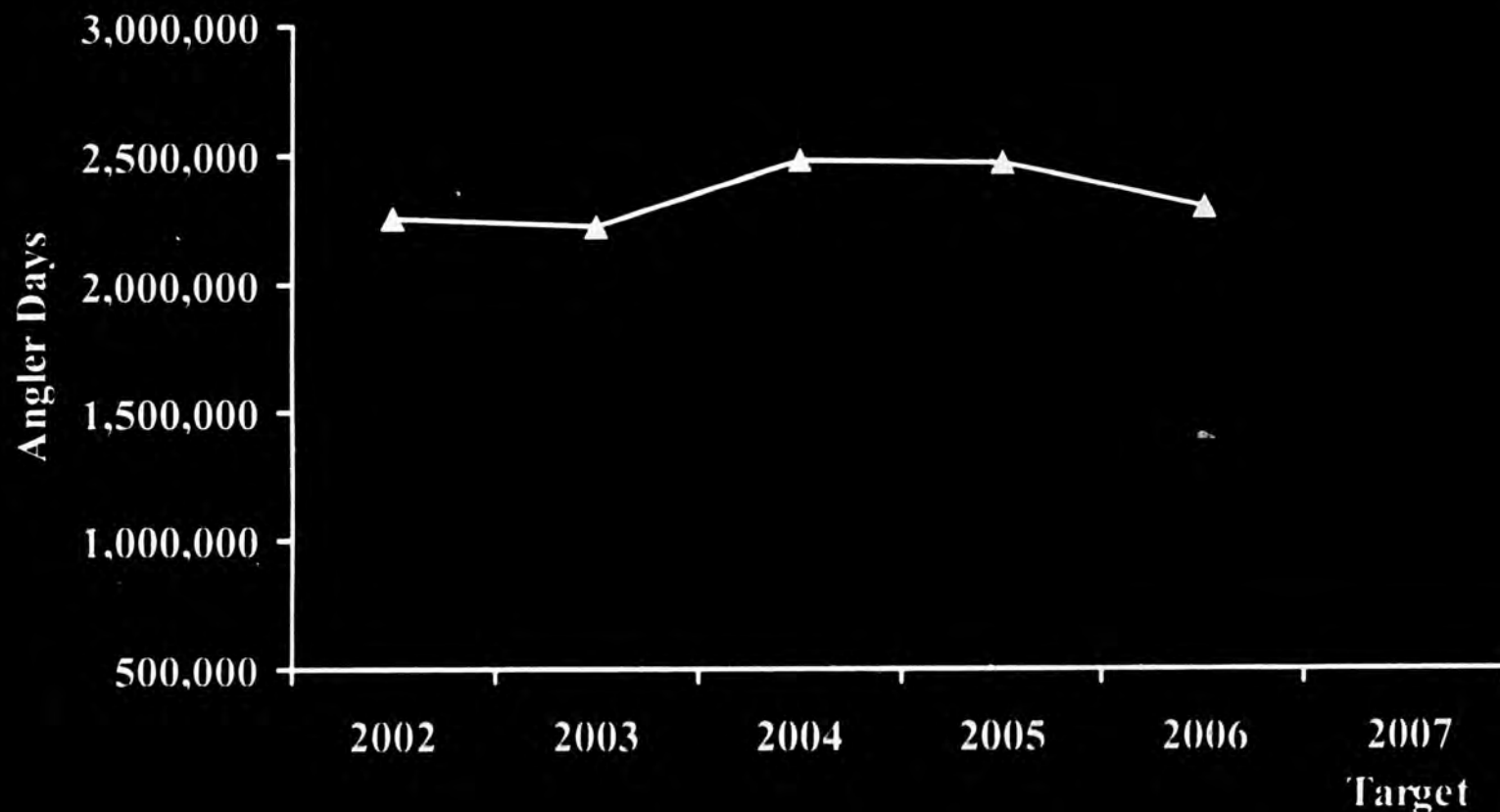
- Outcome:
 - Sustained recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities



Sport Fish education employee teaching a student to fly fish, Southwest

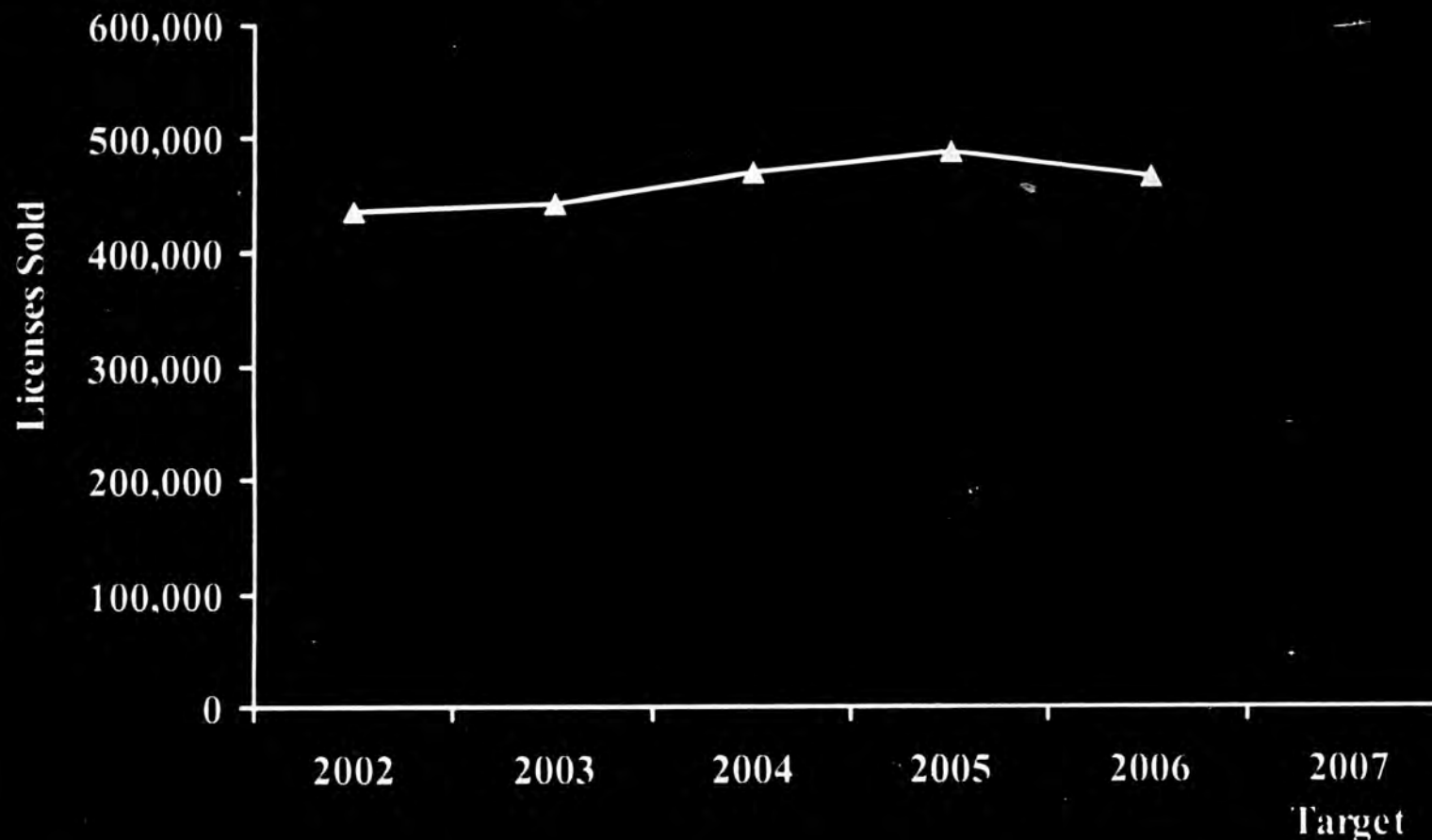
Sport Fish Division Targets & Measures

- Target 1: Provide 2.5 million angler days



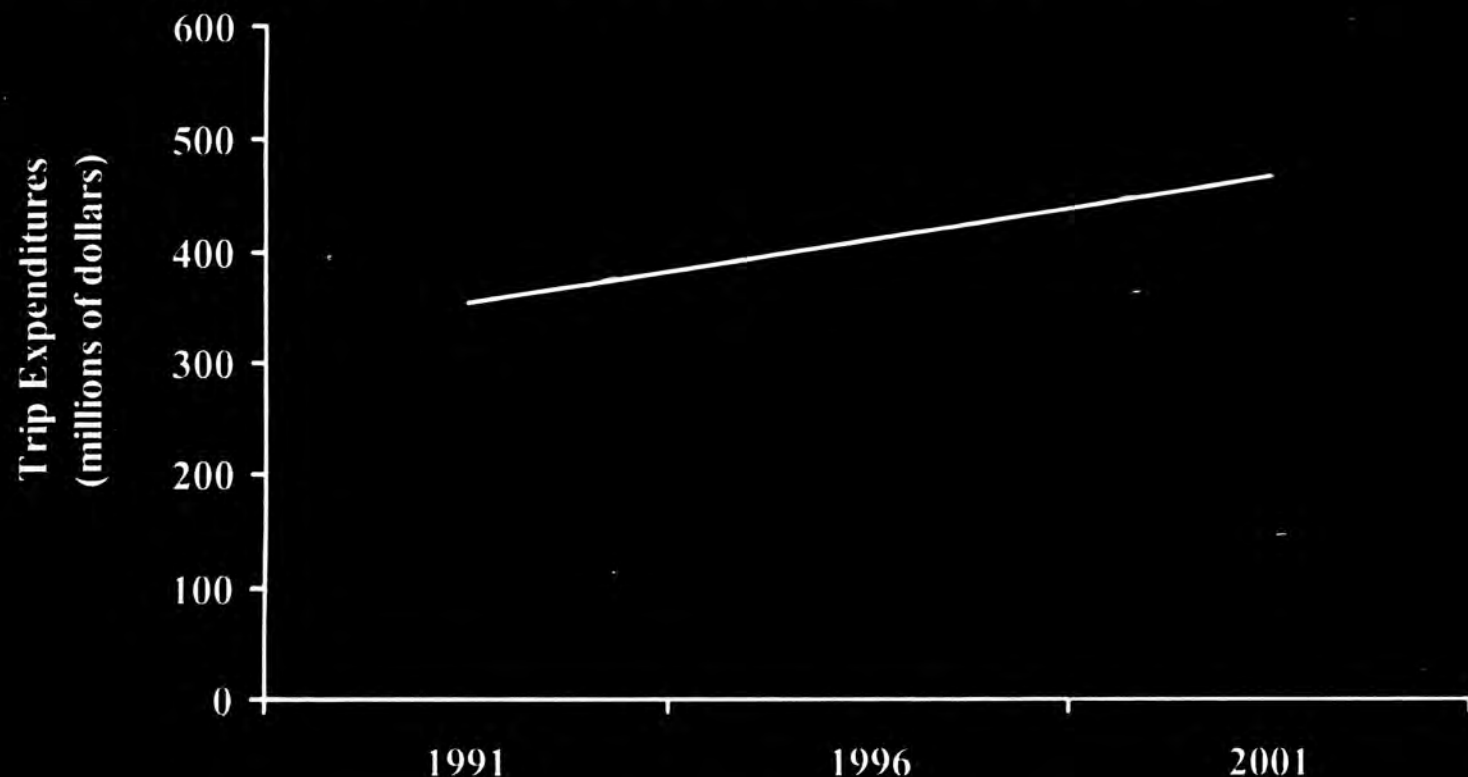
Sport Fish Division Targets & Measures

- Target 1 (continued): Sell 450,000 sport fish licenses



Sport Fish Division Targets & Measures

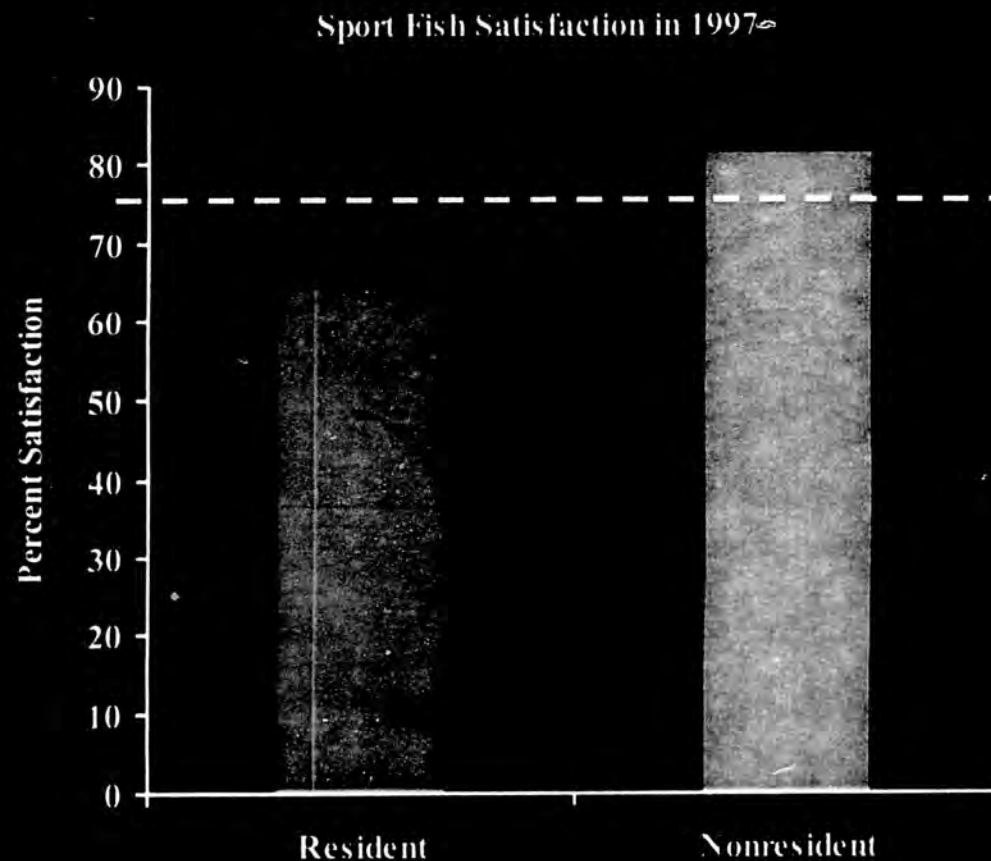
- Target 2: A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing



Red line = data Yellow line = trendline

Sport Fish Division Targets & Measures

- Target 3: Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available
 - 65% residents
 - 82% nonresidents



Region I: FY07 Accomplishments:

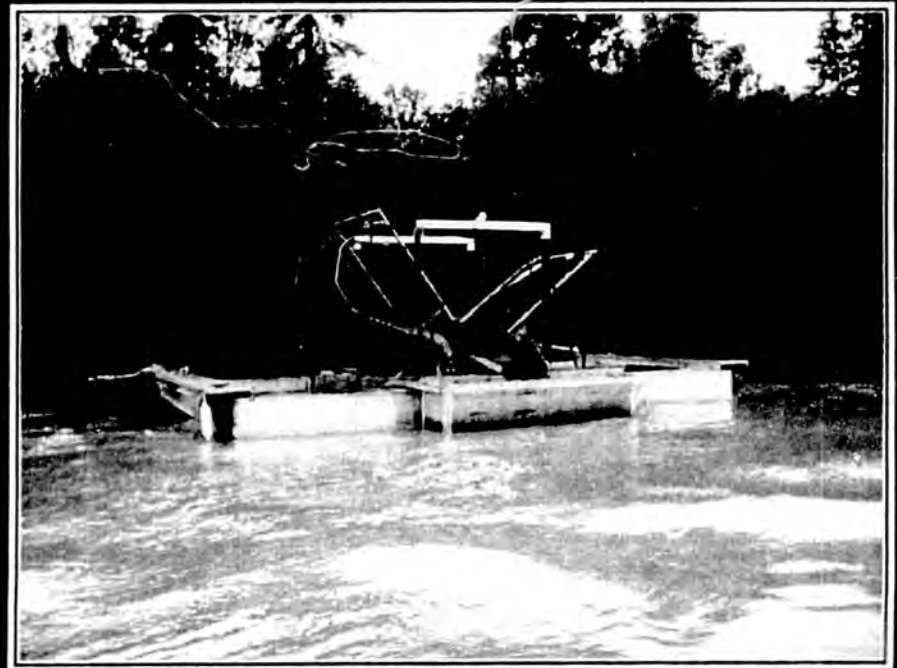
- Marine sport harvests estimated and verified;
- Stock assessments (salmon and resident spp) conducted and escapements estimated;
- Resource expertise provided for road and airport construction, timber harvest, mining, hydroelectric projects and land transactions.



King salmon derby, Ketchikan, Southeast

Region II: FY07 Accomplishments

- Conducted stock assessment work on Kenai, Russian and Susitna Rivers sockeye salmon and Kasilof River king salmon;
- Increased stock assessment work for systems identified for mine development



Susitna River sockeye study, Southeastern

Region III: FY07 Accomplishments

- Continued efforts on regulatory, land use, and research helpful to Alaska anglers
- Information and education program continues involvement with rural communities and users;
- 2007 season experienced minimal inseason salmon opportunity restrictions.



Sport Fish technician holding a Copper River steelhead, Southcentral

Research & Technical Services: FY07 Accomplishments

- Biometric support provided for 120 stock assessment projects statewide
- Continued review of salmon escapement goals
- Statewide estimation of sport fisheries catch, effort and harvest.



Angler with a Nowitna River northern pike, Interior

Habitat Assessment & Restoration: FY07 Accomplishments

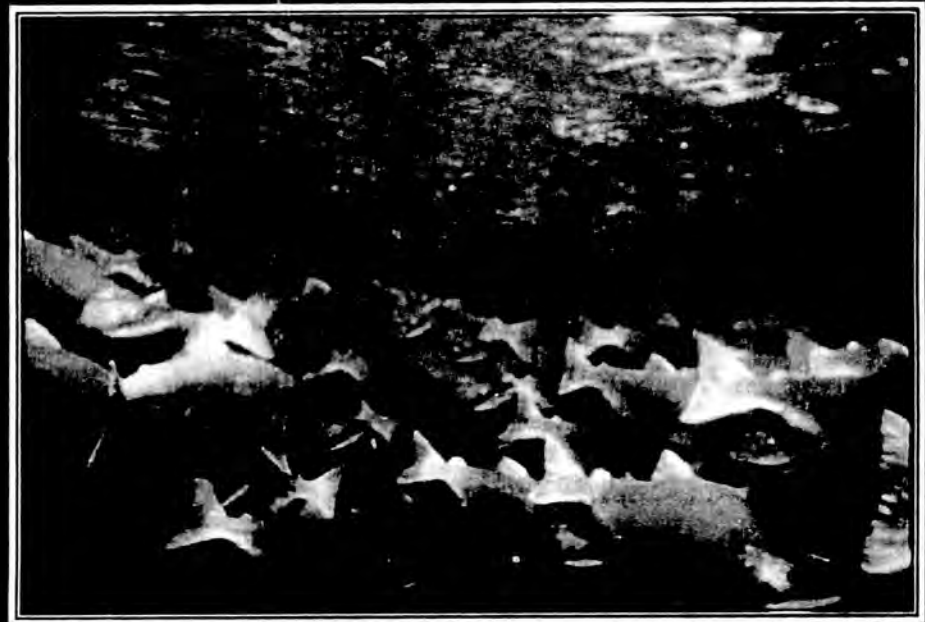
- Reviewed state, municipal, and federal land ownership transfers and land use plans for assuring sustained use
- Updated fish distribution database and anadromous stream catalog
- Continued cost-share agreement with Kenai River landowners regarding stream bank restoration



Chinook salmon in the Salcha River, Interior

Additional FY07 Accomplishments

- Continued support for advisory working group on a limited entry sport fish guide program
- Completed three boater access and 2 non-boating access projects statewide
- Continued Departments ANILCA program to protect management authority of fish and wildlife resources.



Sockeye salmon in Haley Creek, Southcentral

Key Challenges for FY08

- Management of harvests according to regulatory board instruction
- Sustain wild fish stocks targeted by sport anglers
- Maintain and ~~secure~~ satisfaction among resident anglers
- Constructing new hatcheries approved in 2005, while maintaining existing hatchery production

Key Challenges for FY08

- Ensure hunting and fishing public access as land is conveyed and restricted by federal land managers
- Assure resource development is done responsibly without undue affect on fish and wildlife and use
- Minimize impact to other users while meeting subsistence priority

Sport Fish Division

Management

Stock Assessment

Hatchery Production

Access & Development

Habitat Assessment

Information & Education

Enforcement

Planning & Surveys

